

Empty promises a starting point

WITH HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEKEND OF a rollback of postsecondary tuition fees to 2001 levels, Liberal leader Kevin Taft provided yet another example in the ever-growing list of promises made by politicians that they have absolutely no intention of keeping.

This isn't to say that Taft doesn't believe that tuition rates are too high or that his plan is nothing more than an empty campaign promise—this isn't the federal Grits vowing to rid us of the strange and vicious beast ravaging the countryside (and by "countryside," I of course mean "wallets and pockets of hard-working, middle-class Canadians") known only as the Goods and Services Tax. In fact, I think Taft's plan is pretty solid—sure, tuition is still going to be too bloody high, but at least the arrow will be pointing down for once.

And it's a definite step up from the plans laid out by the Conservatives, which I can only assume were eaten by Premier Ed Stelmach's three-legged basset hound named Zeke, because it doesn't exist. In my almost four years in university, the only move they've made to do *anything* with regard to the cost of postsecondary education was to freeze it for a couple years while they studied the issue, then decide that tuition increases should be tied to CPI like almost everything else in the province. If that constitutes a plan, then a video of dad driving around in a riding lawnmower constitutes Internet fetish porn.

But as much as I respect the Liberal party for vocalizing their plans for postsecondary education and pressuring the Conservatives to match them, the fact remains that Taft knows he's making promises that, no matter how much he wants to, he'll never be able to keep.

Stelmach has bungled his way through his first 14 months in office with nary a plan nor direction for the future—though there have been plenty of PR snafus—and lacks the natural charisma that allowed Ralph Klein to remain popular after drunkenly throwing money at the homeless, throwing a proposal at a Legislative page, taunting Belinda Stronach, and generally pissing off nine and a half of Canada's provinces (the other half voted for him).

But despite the missteps that he's made in his first year as premier, he's still not going to lose this election. To do so, his party would have to lose a minimum of 20 seats, and even then, he'd probably form a minority government. It's just not going to happen.

And I think that, deep down, Kevin Taft knows it too. He knows that his party isn't going to win the election yet—they'll need four more years of Stelmach doing his best impression of all three Stooges on 109 street for that to happen. And that gives him the liberty to announce these grandiose, large-scale plans without having to logistically figure out how to make it work. Instead, he can sit back and benefit off of the goodwill that his announcement will bring from the thousands of students in the province and the added exposure and publicity that has resulted.

Albertans may not be ready to get rid of the Tories just yet, but they're becoming more willing to listen to alternative ideas and think critically about their government. So even though Taft may be aware that he'll never have to fulfill any of his campaign promises from this year, making them gives his voters something they can show to their future Conservative overlords and use as leverage to demand something more than the nothing they're getting now.

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor

Lunch no longer safe

Where did they all go?
Two-bite brownies half-eaten.
Now they're one-bite treats!

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor



LETTERS

Bridge the only option currently available

(Re: "Bridge over troubled traffic only increases congestion," 26 February) First off, I'd just like to say that I'm not at all opposed to criticizing the status quo and those in a position of authority—in fact, I'm all for it—but your article isn't much more than a whiny, pretentious rant about, well, I'm not sure what exactly. Pipes, plumbers and bridges and shit. But I digress.

You're right about one thing in your article: pipes get clogged and roads get congested. Is the solution to stop using running water and stop driving vehicles? I certainly don't think so. Your article advocates making streets narrower and adding a carpool lane to encourage the use of Edmonton's stellar public transit system. Yeah, because that's realistic. The reason that Edmonton is dependent on cars is the lack of a viable alternative. Our transit system sucks, especially compared to the "bigger and better cities" that you referred to in the article. I'm assuming that you're referring to cities like New York, London and Toronto, which all have efficient and reliable passenger train systems.

As your article mentions, the transportation department report recognizes that a bridge is a stop gap solution. The real, long term solution to traffic jams and our city's car dependence is improved

public transit and that's already underway in the form of the South Campus LRT expansion. You fail to mention in your article that the transportation department that you're highly critical of has also proposed a \$5 billion LRT expansion for south, northwest, and northeast Edmonton that will eventually reach the International Airport, St Albert, and Fort Saskatchewan.

An ambitious LRT expansion like the one proposed won't happen overnight. An optimistic estimate is that it will take at least ten years for the lines to reach the outskirts of the city. In the meantime, something has to be done to alleviate northbound traffic across the river. And until you can offer me a solution that's more compelling than a high-occupancy vehicle lane, the only option is to build a new bridge.

TY PETERSON
Arts V

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

The end of the Cold War is nigh at last

As you may know, there's a Chinese proverb that runs, "may you be cursed to live in interesting times." And if one is ever to be so cursed, then now, in surely the most interesting of all the times that comprise the latter half of the twentieth century, is the time to be so afflicted.

Specifically, I focus on the historical changes occurring in the Soviet Union, and in particular on the epoch-making announcements of 6 February that indicate multiparty elections are to be held. This announcement, in one sweeping stroke, effectively limits the range, power, and scope of the greatest totalitarian regime the world has ever known.

Now, whether you have a cold warrior who envisions the current changes and resulting unrest as "the most evil and dastardly commie plot of all time," or whether you're a dove who believes that the party boys "were really nice guys all along, we just didn't know it before," it's to your advantage to begin paying focused attention to these new developments; there are more changes coming, and

to hold a balanced view of events and realize their importance to the future of the global village we share is the key to seeing the true nature of history—a history we are a part of despite our relevant opinions.

It's interesting to note that, were you to mention the possibility of multi-party elections (read the communists actually deciding to give up some of their power) thirty-five years ago, the plague of McCarthyism would have been upon you.

Regardless, for all the dramatic changes to have happened in the past year alone without either Gorbachev being involved in a tragic motor accident outside Moscow, civil war, Gorbachev at last resigning due to the immovability of the Soviet power structure to accept change, however small, or Gorby not being seen in public for ten months is almost a wonder in itself, and as a result merits the closest and most rational of observational skills that we possess if one wishes to truly understand the significance of the changes—both to us and the Soviet people—as we continue to live in a period of time which seemed unlikely even five years ago.

To live in interesting times, indeed.

RAY SUCHOW
13 February, 1990

Where there's smoke, there's bigots

CONAL
PIERSE

Smoking is something that's always seemed inherently badass to me—much like jump-kicking someone off of a motorcycle, *while smoking*. However, despite the undeniable coolness that they radiate, I'm not envious of my dark-lunged peers. Because though I sometimes get blinding drunk on a Monday night and throw up in SUB bathrooms, make rash and inappropriate statements in public places, and have no qualms about strangling a cow with my bare hands just to get a steak, I will never be as universally disliked as a smoker.

These days, it's completely fine to discriminate against another person simply because they happen to be a resident of flavour country. I know people who have refused to become involved with otherwise perfectly normal individuals solely because that person smoked, citing it as a critical character flaw that they just can't get past.

To think that it's simply an issue of the poor smell or taste of a smoker's mouth is silly because plenty of people have bad breath that we forgive them for—it's just a matter of mouthwash or powering through those first few minutes until your tongue becomes

numb to the taste of beer and peanuts. It's more of a mental revulsion to some warped concept of what a smoker is, as if putting tobacco between your lips suddenly makes you some kind of cross-eyed hunchback with a hook hand and peg-leg, rather than someone who has a problem that a little perfume and a stick of gum can fix.

These days, it's completely fine to discriminate against another person simply because they happen to be a resident of flavour country.

People simply refuse to cut smokers any slack. Many times I've witnessed someone light up, only to be berated for the act and forced to justify their choice of habit, yet I've never gotten more than a smile or an eye-roll for cracking a beer mid-day—hell, I've been encouraged and even threatened to partake in such behaviour. But were someone to offer a smoke, they'd receive a look of disgust similar to if they'd offered a bite of fresh placenta sandwich (which I hear are a rich source of iron).

The current smoking bans already force them to venture outside in the harsh Alberta winters to satisfy their cravings, and still some people don't think this is enough.

They're furious about their poor, pink little lungs being exposed to the harsh kill-you-dead carcinogens in second-hand smoke in the short moments they're required to walk past a smoker who's hunched up near the doorway, shivering like the little match girl, and wonder why these lepers can't take their cancer-sticks elsewhere. But truthfully, these people are threatening your health about as much as the guy who can't hold his chili-cheese burrito fart in over the course of a ten-second elevator ride—those bastards should be stoned.

Everybody has bad habits, but whether it's a tendency to spit when they talk or an inability to whisper, we by-and-large ignore their foibles—at least until they're no longer within earshot. Yet somehow, we can't just accept the fact that somebody smokes, outside, on their own time, and at their own risk—hell, they're only shortening their own sad smelly lives anyhow, so just live and let die.

If you want to continue to berate and badger your smoker friends—or even complete strangers—under the guise that you only “care about their health and the health of others,” that's all well and good, but don't be surprised when Johnny Cancer-Stick shoots back about your grating harpy voice or lopsided walk.

Then again, a cigarette started the fire in the Black Dog, so maybe we should just drag them all out behind the shed and solve this problem once and for all.

I've got places to go and can't just 'take it easy,' so quit slow-riding the hallways

DAVID
JOHNSTON

Ever get that weird self-conscious feeling when you're sprinting down a campus hallway like you shouldn't be going 45 km per hour? I do all the time. No matter why I'm running, I always feel like I ought not to be. It's times like these that I have the most in common with a bad SU candidate.

Sprinting on campus always feels vaguely wrong and unpopular, so it's a good thing that I can't do it very often due to all the slow-moving lollygaggers that seem to clog every bloody hallway like the cholesterol-encrusted arteries of Fat Albert—and no, I'm not bitter at all.

I didn't initially have anything against people who walk slowly; however, it's become a factor for me over the course of this semester due to my amazing talent of making class schedules that are physically impossible to keep.

For example, last year I somehow wound up taking a European history class on the sixth floor of Dent/Pharm—wrap your head around that one. And this term is no better: due to a predominance of arts courses, I find myself sprinting down HUB every hour to get from Humanities to FAB to Tory to Rutherford and back again just to make it to my classes on time.

“I can't be the only person in a hurry on campus—after all, we all have places to go, people to see, classes to skip—so why can't everyone, if not full-tilt sprinting, at least move through the hallways at a light jog? We'd all get to our classes, meetings, or quilting bees a little faster, and everybody would win.”

Again, normally this wouldn't be an issue, as I could just slip outside and do it. But with the snow runoff freezing the ground into an icy walkway giving it all the traction of Teflon-coated ball bearings, I have no choice but to travel indoors.

I turn down into the main corridor, and it's “woop, woop! All hands to deck; we have an Amber Alert here.” I can't be the only person in a hurry on campus—after all, we all have places to go, people to see, classes to skip—so why can't everyone, if not full-tilt sprint, at least move through the hallways at a light jog? We'd all get to our classes, meetings, or quilting bees a little faster, and everybody would win. But that's not going to happen because everyone else on campus is seemingly cursed with sloth-like apathy—or perhaps they all just know how to plan a walkable course-load. In any case, I have some ideas on how the world can be made a better place for those of us who are required to travel four miles in ten minutes with two stops like some terrible algebra word-problem come to life.

My first idea involves the installation of “slidewalks” in all hallways. Even if you're going too slow, once you step onto them, you're suddenly hitting speeds in the triple digits

while screaming for dear life before coming to an abrupt halt and getting launched through the wall by the terminal velocity you were flying along at.

I think this one's got real potential, but it might not suit the weak-hearted, so I came up with an alternative, which involves giving those of us in a hurry keys to miniature bulldozers—a plan that pretty much explains itself.

Barring that, perhaps the slower walkers could just stay to the side. You're not getting down HUB, SUB, or wherever else any faster or slower if you're going in a clump or single file, and this way, those of us who need to hit the afterburners won't feel like unsafe pariahs for weaving through a crowd of people at speeds that could break multiple bones if someone were to step out immediately.

This may come off a bit harsh, but it seems like common courtesy to make room for those of us in need. So buck up, stay to the right, and there'll be less high-speed collisions in no time. Alternately, one of you can just reorganize my schedule so my classrooms are all ten feet from each other. Then everyone can walk like turtles all you want, I won't care—scouts honour.



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Building an effective LRT (system) requires co-operation

This isn't something the city can do alone, so it's time for the outlying suburbs and the province to pitch in



BRIAN GOULD

Thirty years ago this April, Edmonton kicked off the North American light rail renaissance, a movement that's only gained strength across the continent as time progresses. Yet as the decades have spun by, our system has largely languished, confined to a rather pathetic single leg attached to a downtown subway with so much potential.

Finally, it seems like that potential may be realized. The current south LRT expansion is badly needed—if only to upgrade the city's rapid transit from “laughingstock” to “mediocre”—and momentum is starting to build.

The fast-tracking of the LRT line to NAIT and the abandonment of bus rapid transit there suggests that planning to the West End and Mill Woods may be just around the bend—and as a result, there's potential to build something great.

Unfortunately, as much as City Council and the transportation department are pushing for a system that will build regional unity, there are a number of planning-related hurdles that they have yet to overcome. Much of this planning is internal, and the city will require radically

improved standards for integrating stations with adjacent land uses if we're to ever reduce car dependency. But if we're truly interested in tying this area together with steel, we need a huge change in regional thinking.

First and foremost, a regional planning board is required in order to form a cohesive picture of what the ultimate LRT system will look like. While it may make sense to tack a stub onto the east side of the subway to make NAIT accessible in the short term, if the final destination is St Albert—as current talk indicates—it would add ten minutes each way to student commutes. A line to Mill Woods and Beaumont makes more sense to branch from the other side instead. An extension to West Edmonton looks to be headed through downtown, but it could head along Whyte Avenue and out to Sherwood Park instead, hitting campus along the way.

The issue of how the system will be paid for also needs to be worked out before construction proceeds. If the City were to pick up the tab for construction but had no control over the way the LRT integrates with bedroom communities, I doubt any of the outlying suburbs would make a peep.

But if you were to suggest any kind of co-operation amongst the Alberta Capital Region Alliance, there would be no end to the amount of ruckus that would be raised. Though the 20-odd fiefdoms in the Greater Edmonton Area would disagree, they

wouldn't exist without the city or each other. Like it or not, we're all part of the same big community and economy, and we need to start acting like it.

Ultimately, any useful and binding solution must be imposed from above—yet the provincial election campaigns have been suspiciously silent on this issue. In late 2007, a report commissioned by the government recommended a regional planning board with binding land-use planning powers.

Like it or not, we're all part of the same big community and economy, and we need to start acting like it.

However, the recommendation is hardly revolutionary, and is the bare minimum to return some semblance of order to the region. As a result, it remains a mere suggestion—much like the oil royalty recommendations the Conservatives opted to pick and choose from.

Like the tarsands, this is an issue that requires attention immediately—but, unlike the tarsands, the opposition parties haven't been any more vocal. Of the three main parties, none have properly addressed the Edmonton region. The Liberal Party's proposed “Big City Charter” would give Edmonton

the voice it deserves in provincial responsibilities, but stops short of giving the city any influence over its most immediate neighbours. The NDP has great plans to fund green energy with increased royalties, but without regional planning powers, their plan to curb urban sprawl would likely fall flat.

It's not especially surprising: while these parties could pick up seats in metro Edmonton, they would risk alienating their suburban voters. Anti-regionalist rhetoric has reached the ultimate level for Alberta, comparable to how we reacted to the dastardly NEP. Anything with even the slightest whiff of co-operation, let alone economic guidance, is immediately viewed in the worst possible terms in this province.

The NDP have budgeted a healthy surplus into their well-detailed campaign promises, but they're still considered that wacky socialists in a province where the greatest service the government is asked to provide is a pothole-free strip of asphalt between the gas station and Wal-mart. It doesn't take regional planning to build more sprawl, but it's needed to build a proper city, as well as a proper transit system.

If we're ever to move forward as a city and a province, we need to learn to work together. This isn't some Soviet five-year plan—it's just a group of leaders sitting down with a map and talking about how best to serve a prospering and growing region. Only in Alberta would that be a radical idea.

THE BURLAP SACK

Now that the weather has warmed up, nothing feels nicer than a long walk on a balmy Sunday afternoon. I stroll along, enjoying the sun's reflection on the melting snow, the cool breeze on my peaceful face, and the fresh scent of the spring air. And then suddenly, Splash! and I'm soaked.

This, my friends, is due to the action of some cad barrelling his tank of a vehicle down the puddle-ridden road. Clearly this individual has problems understanding the simple math of a big car plus a big puddle causing a large splash.

I look down at my pants that are now completely splattered with mud, and can't help but be frustrated. But my anger quickly turns into glee at the thought of my revenge.

This particular act of revenge requires the use of a burlap sack. Then, the snot-nosed brat and their obnoxious car are thrown in—did I mention that a muddy puddle already waits for them inside the sack? Following the beating, the sack will be left curbside next to the trash and recycling bags to be splashed by other careless motorists.

Maybe then they'll finally learn to slow down when approaching water on the road and to do what they can to avoid splashing pedestrians.

MARIA KOTOVYCH

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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KELSEY TANASIUK

Blogging's difficult when you're so easily distracted—ooh, bunnies!

KELSEY
TANASIUK

*"As my brilliance comes to me, I fill my blog with various thoughts, like *Harry Potter* endings I would have preferred, or the universal truth that, when used properly, side boob can solve any problem. And though most posts are in-depth and well-planned, but some smaller gems also dot the landscape."*

Every so often, I'll sit back and think about how clever I am. However, at times I find myself frustrated by the fact that so few people acknowledge my genius. You see, the problem is that most of my brilliance comes in short bursts. They're often much too compact to be stretched into a full-sized *Gateway* article—just small, perfect gems of unfiltered intelligence. And, every so often, it dawns on me that it's time I join my equals on the exalted platform for my clever thoughts—the Internet.

And so the cycle begins: I blow the dust off my computer's power button, and it makes that creaking roar of a severely battered piece of machinery starting up. Then I blare the secret stash of Fergie on my iTunes and grab a cup of tea—you see, proper preparation is crucial for the successful blogger. Then the most important part of the process begins: choosing the blog's name.

Countless hours are spent sitting in front of the computer screen attempting to do just that, because it has to be perfect too, it just has to be. Clever, funny, and ever so slightly superior to the one that I set up last time. Something that will not only attract people to my personal musings but also capture the hearts of a generation, if possible.

Time passes, Wikipedia articles are read at random, Facebook is checked compulsively, and eventually, as Fergie starts to repeat herself, I get fed up. I pull a dictionary out from under a pile of papers on my desk and flip to random words. Combining the first two that sound okay together, I fill in the required fields, hit enter, and watch as my new blog is born.

Exhausted from my blog-naming efforts, I'll generally retire to my couch and TV after this taxing process. The first post is a project that shouldn't be attempted on the same night because, naturally, it has to be perfect, and perfection takes time.

The next time I sit down to blog, it can't be scheduled, because genius strikes at random. It may be the next day or it might be as much as a week after the blog's conception until I actually write anything—though it's always worth the wait.

As my brilliance comes to me, I fill my blog with various thoughts, like *Harry Potter* endings I would have preferred, or the universal truth that, when used properly, side boob can solve any problem. And though most posts are in-depth and well-planned, some smaller gems also dot the landscape. Things like snarky website critics and made-up book titles I'd like to use, such as *Star-spangled shit-kickers*.

Eventually it will dawn on me that I haven't received a comment on my blog since its inception—a realization that hits me like an obese hippopotamus to the forehead—and I'll spend the next week or so surfing the web and visiting popular blogs in an effort to answer the one question that burns in my mind: "Why not me?" I try to pinpoint what makes these other bloggers successful, though if I manage to figure it out, I immediately back off because I don't want to be a copycat. Eventually I lose hope, post a goodbye message filled with morose poetry, and leave the blogosphere swearing that this time it's for good.

However, it's only a matter of time before I get the itch again—because once Fergie has been buried under my playlist's history in favour of a Moldy Peaches spree, I'll decide that a new blog would be a really good idea. It's a vicious cycle, and one that I intend to break here and now. All I really need to do is shift my thinking: I'm no longer a failed blogger, but rather an esteemed *Gateway* writer—or at least my mother thinks so. And by publishing myself in this paper I am, in essence, forcing you all to be my readership.

Circulation numbers for the paper will be due to my readership these days. Now if only someone would just write me a letter, everything would be perfect.

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Elections need to kick it up a notch



TYSON
DURST

People often come up to me in the street and say, "Mr Durst, our democratic system is flawed, and the level of participation by its citizenry troubles me—how would you go about fighting apathy and disillusionment?" to which I reply, "I'm glad you asked, random stranger who beat the astronomical odds of guessing my name correctly; after nearly falling into a coma watching the Alberta Provincial Leaders Debate, I think I might have some ways to liven up the democratic process."

First of all, if the *Idol* series have taught us anything, it's that singing competitions will get people out voting and participating in droves, and that they'll gladly pay the associated fees. Clearly, a sing-off is needed as a component of the debates, complete with annoying host and sarcastic judges.

Another disconcerting trend is the young people with their iPods, iPods, videogames, and bubble gum not

giving much of a hoot about politics and voting. The solution here: a videogame competition sponsored by the three major game console powers—Microsoft, Sony, and Nintendo. A *Guitar Hero* challenge is a given in this part of the debate. I don't really give a shit how you're going to fix Alberta's healthcare crisis, Kevin Taft; I want to see how many successive combos you can put together while rocking out to some Aerosmith. You may be a superstar in the legislature, but are you a superstar where it really counts—on Expert? Additional rock-star moves like head thrashing and karate kicks should also be considered for bonus style points when grading the performance.

I have no idea why people are wired this way, but we also like our sex and violence. How can politicians tap into these seemingly insatiable desires? By demonstrating that they're the most sexy and most violent candidate at the table. The sexy part could be established with wet T-shirt contests and bikini walk-offs—keeping in mind that the party leaders are all male. Brian Mason may want to address issues like affordable housing, but I want to see how he addresses his wet, far-left man-tits while strutting on stage in a Borat-style thong with suspenders. Enough of all this hiding

behind stiff suits, I say—let your ideas hang out.

As for adding some violence and danger, it's as easy as mixed martial arts. Sure, you can stand around using rhetoric and statistics to take down your opponents, but you can also take down your opponents with a swift knee to the face followed up by a punishing elbow to the spine. If you're not willing to severely injure or kill your political enemies in a tournament of *Mortal Kombat*, I think we all have to question that person's commitment to their platform and whether they can truly deliver bold leadership.

These are but a few of the suggestions that I have for strengthening the pillars of democracy—I haven't even touched on attack ads and how we need more of them with higher production values. Whispering, "Ed Stelmach has no plan" ominously in the background of an ad is all well and good, but why not superimpose his face onto the *Cloverfield* monster for some added effect?

I think Albertans are tired of half-assed approaches to manipulating the truth, outright lying, and other tactics that are a cornerstone of our democracy. It's time to roll up our sleeves and do better. It's time for change that works for bloodthirsty Albertans like me.

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees, Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2008. Undergraduate and graduate students (as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2008 and ending April 30, 2009. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times (monthly)
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am / 3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO students (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am / last Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 1st Wednesday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate	1:30 pm / 4th Tuesday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates	2:00 pm / 2nd Tuesday in October, March and June 4th Tuesday in January
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally three times a year (October, March and May)
ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals regarding disciplinary decisions of the Discipline Officer and/or Dean as made under the Code of Student Behaviour.	AAC: TWO under-graduates & TWO graduates UAB: FIVE under-graduates & FIVE graduates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will normally participate in 3 to 4 hearings per year. Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday; Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours. Students should have flexible evening schedules two nights a week (including summer months).
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta. (Open only to current members of GFC.)	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

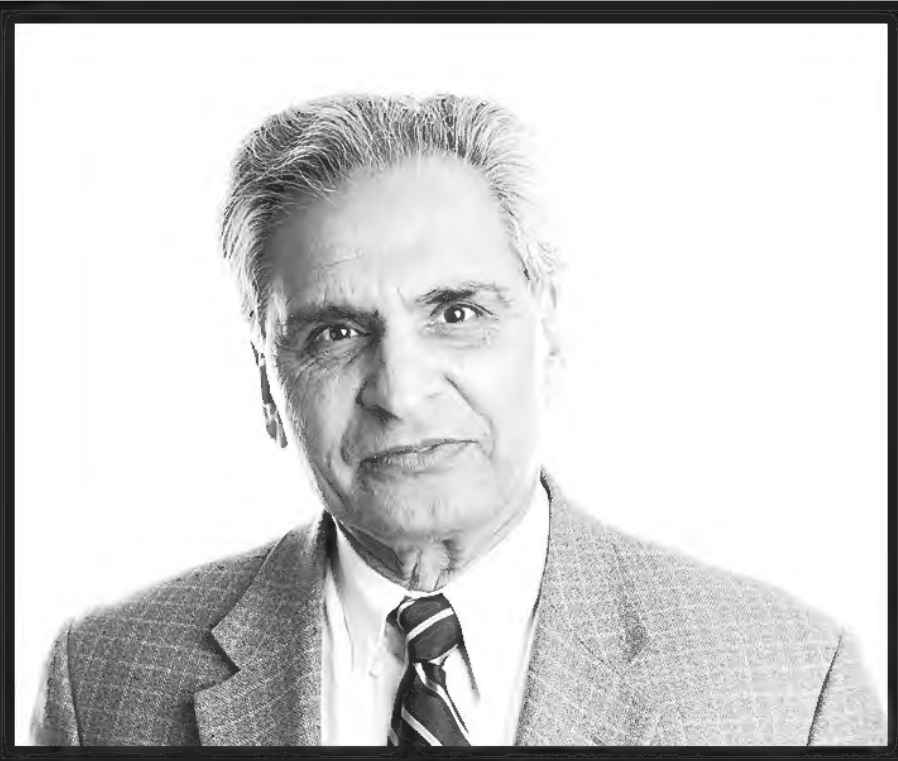
Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/secretariat/> or in Room 2-5 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to University Governance **by Wednesday, March 5, 2008**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms Vanessa Ogilvy, Secretary to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 492-4715, or by e-mail: vanessa.ogilvy@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member for the 2008-09 academic year. Expressions of interest for this position should be directed to Mr Garry Bodnar (garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca), Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.

THE PANELLISTS



A fourth-year political science student and last year's Students' Union vice-president (external), **DAVE COURNOYER** is perhaps best-known now as the owner of Edstelmach.ca. His other website, Daveberta.ca, is one of the most widely-read in Alberta's political blogosphere. Cournoyer is also an active campaigner for the Alberta Liberal party.



RAJ PANNU served as leader of the Alberta NDP from 2000–2004, and is now retiring from his Edmonton-Strathcona riding, which he has represented since 1997. Prior to his political career, Pannu taught educational policy studies and sociology from 1969–1996 at the University of Alberta, where he is now Professor Emeritus.



A recent political science graduate, **SAM POWER** served as SU president in 2006/07 and is currently news director at CJSR. In 2007, she also worked for Public Interest Alberta, a provincial advocacy group.



IAN URQUHART is an associate professor in the Political Science department, where he specializes in the politics of Alberta, the oilsands, and the environment. He has also served as director of the Alberta Wilderness Institute.

election dissection

PROVINCIAL EDITION

With the provincial election approaching on Monday, we asked a panel of three distinguished political commentators and Dave Cournoyer for their thoughts. From how the election will affect students and the postsecondary world to big-picture issues like oilsands and the environment, our panellists open up the province and peer into its democratic underbelly to help you decide.

Compiled by **ADAM GAUMONT**
PHOTOS BY MIKE OTTO

If we were to slice this province open on Monday, what would we see?

IAN URQUHART (IU): “I think the most interesting city is going to be Calgary. They’re saying maybe ten seats for the Liberals—something like that wouldn’t really surprise me. The dynamics in Calgary just seem to be so different this time. So I think there is a lot of opportunity in Calgary. Calgary is going to be a lot more competitive than we’ve ever seen it before, and I think Edmonton will remain competitive. I think Edmonton has been the most competitive region in the province in terms of our party politics, and I expect it to be the same way.”

What about if we were to open up the head of an average U of A student—what are they looking for?

DAVE COURNOYER (DC): “For myself, as a student, I’m looking at affordability of education; I’m looking at affordable housing—those right now are my two key issues [...] and I only see the NDP and the Liberals talking about that right now. The Conservatives are talking about doing the same thing that they’ve been doing before. One of the points of their platform was to continue with CPI increases [...] so from a student perspective, those are the types of issues that would be on my mind, but I’m not sure any of the parties have really grasped an issue enough to really motivate people to come out on an issue basis.”

IU: “If the issues that Dave mentions—if the issues of tuition and affordable housing, those sorts of issues—were uppermost in your mind, I think it would be impossible to vote Conservative. If those are the issues that really matter to you, and you were going to cast your ballot based on your position on those issues [...] there is just such a difference between the Liberal and New Democrat positions on those issues compared to the governing Tories, it’s impossible for me to see how someone who thought those were their key issues in the campaign could then say, ‘I’m going to vote Conservative because of it.’”

What party do think has done the best job, platform-wise, of going after the student vote?

SAMANTHA POWER (SP): “From what I’ve heard of the political parties’ platform positions, a lot of them seem focused on institutional kind of reforms to the University and not a huge amount on the student side of things. And when it is on the student side of things, it’s like grants and loans, which is nice, but not the fundamental problem of the actual affordability of education. So I’d like to see more in terms of actually reducing costs and supporting students from an undergraduate perspective.

Outside of the platform, I think the Liberals and the New Democrats have done a good job of mobilizing students just in terms of getting them involved in the campaign. I see a ton of youth involved in campaigns.”

RAJ PANNU (RP): “I think the NDP on the tuition fee issue, on the public housing for students, and on student loans issues, I think they have taken some fairly specific, clear positions—if students look at them from up close, I think they’d find them attractive. Because [...] in a sense, students’ anxiety is mostly financial. Quality of education is an issue that none of the parties is really focusing on, but on the affordability side, the NDP have offered three specifics, which are better than we did than when I was leader and even in the last election, so they’re quite focused, so that might be something that’ll attract some attention.”

IU: “I think they’ve gone the furthest in terms of those issues. The Liberals have gone in that direction somewhat as well. I think you make a really good point about the quality of teaching. You know, we’re hearing lots about hiring other professionals in public-sector institutions, and when you say that, then a bell rings in my head and it says, ‘Well there’s been absolutely nothing said about faculty,’ and I don’t mean another research chair.”

RP: “It’s class size; it’s quality of

contact and student-teacher relationships. You know, I left campus in ’96 fuming about these things—it’s not a new problem. It’s a problem that was creeping up on us in the late ’80s and into the ’90s. I left in ’96 very unhappy about what was happening to the quality of instruction and contact on campus. Classes have become too big, there’s not enough room in the libraries for students to go and study. Classrooms looking drab and overcrowded. That’s an issue that simply isn’t getting attention and really needs to get attention.

And that’s where the faculty comes in: teaching loads. Faculty are somewhat lucky in that they can protect themselves against—except for class size—how many hours they teach, but ask the sessionals, who now constitute 40 per cent of the instructional staff. And so it’s been bundled onto their shoulders, and what happens when you overload people with teaching responsibilities? The quality of what you do is bound to go down. No fault of the instructors, who get paid less, have to work more, and have to cut corners somewhere.”

The televised leadership debate was comprised of Ed Stelmach, Kevin Taft, Brian Mason, and Wildrose Alliance Leader Paul Hinman. Meanwhile, George Read and his Green Party were excluded, despite fielding candidates in all but four ridings.

What should be the criteria be for inclusion in the televised debate?

IU: “The question of who gets to play is really an important one, and I don’t think necessarily I would go with, ‘If you can nominate candidates in all the constituencies or even most of the constituencies.’ But maybe we should be thinking about things like judging the appeal and the potential for that appeal to grow, and think of it like proportional representation systems, where parties that get five per cent of the popular vote in most PR systems will get some seats in the legislature. So you might want to think about it in that way, that how you do in the popular vote in this election would shape whether your leader got to participate in debate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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And in some ways I think, given the way our electoral system works, small parties are dead before they're born. And this might be a way, too, that this would give people another reason to vote for today's fringe parties."

RP: "[That] begs a larger question that you have addressed a bit: that, really, to democratize the system is a major challenge. You need to make the democratic process more open, more revitalized, and that includes, of course, the question of how do we encourage representation of different political positions and points of view. So to open the door, I think the best way to guarantee it would be to move to proportional representation. Changes in the electoral system allowing a kind of PR system—that's the real guarantor, in my view, of fuller participation, and it's long overdue."

DC: "I think it shows just how fickle the people who make these decisions are. This time, the criteria was 'Do you have a seat in the legislature?' so all the parties who did have seats in the legislature were represented. You go back to 1997, both [NDP leader] Pam Barrett and [Social Credit leader] Randy Thorsteinson were represented in the debates, and neither of their parties had seats in the Legislature from the previous election. So you only have to look back eleven years to see that the criteria was different, and then two elections following that, Thorsteinson was the leader of the [Alberta] Alliance, and they wouldn't let him in the debates because he didn't have a seat in the Legislature—he didn't have a seat in the Legislature in 1997 either!"

SP: "I would say if you feel you could lead this province, you should be allowed in the debate, regardless of how many candidates you can run, regardless of how many candidates are in your party. And I know that that opens it up to maybe some crazy people, but it might also open up the debate, you know, because when I watched the debate, I didn't see ideas, I didn't see people debating what's actually going on in this province, so opening it up might actually challenge some people to come out with more radical perspectives and actually challenge some people to come up with policy perspective and challenge some actual results, so I say open it up."

RP: "If the intention really is to promote public debate on central issues, that should become the focus of electoral competition, and I think we need to talk about a number of things about the debate, not just about the representation present, which is certainly one important issue, but who should be responsible for designing certain questions that have to be asked. I thought the media did a poor job of really confronting the leaders with key, critical questions, so the debate [...] I didn't find it very helpful."

DC: "You watch the debates that are going on in the United States, like the Republican debates and the Democratic debates, and they're so much more exciting than anything that went on last Thursday night, and I see a number of things. I mean I would love to see a leaders' debate in Alberta where questions were submitted via YouTube. Have real people ask these questions—not to call reporters not "real" people—but have actual voters ask these questions. Have it in front of a live audience! Having a leaders' debate in a sterile, neutral TV studio just kills any sense of energy. Have it in Myer Horowitz Theatre! If you can't defend and articulately present your ideas in front of 800 people, what are you really doing at that podium?"

I think you'd see a lot more engagement. You watch the Democratic debates, if the audience doesn't like what you're saying, they'll boo you. If they like what you're saying, they'll

show up; we're okay,' but it's astounding."

Probably the most divisive—and most talked-about—issue in this election is that of the tar sands. Given all of the coverage that this issue receives, what do you think are some misconceptions about Alberta's biggest resource?

IU: "There's a great quote that Larry Pratt used when he wrote *The Tar Sands* [...] Someone from the Hudson Institute remarked that 'Boreal landscape is of really no aesthetic value, so this won't be much of an issue,' and I still think that's too much the way Albertans feel about it, even when you can get 60 per cent of them to say, 'You should slow down.'"

Another misconception about the tar sands is that everyone talked about how much more we were going to get in royalties from the energy sector.

"Philosophically speaking, what is the role of government if not to protect public interest, to define public interest and devise policies around it, to make sure that it's protected and enhanced and well-served by whatever decisions they make?"

—RAJ PANNU

cheer. There's so much interaction. I think you'd see a lot more reality coming from the leaders instead of staying on the script. You'd see who they really are because they'd have to react to that. And people tune in too, because it's fun to watch."

SP: "I was shocked at the lack of passion. You want to lead this province, and you look like a robot—you don't have any emotion about what you're talking about."

RP: "The debates to watch, if you want to learn something from them, I think, is between the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates once they get nominated. I think if you go back to seeing the debates between Gore and Bush, they were quite engaging I thought, but there were only two persons debating. And that's a very, very important point is that you can't escape getting excited when answering questions and being pressed to answer questions. When you have an hour and a half and four people shouting at each other, it's very difficult anywhere with that kind of format."

SP: "And not just in the leaders' debate but in forums and constituencies, there should be some sort of rule that if you're running, you have to show up. It's pathetic that Conservative MLAs don't show up. It happens all over—they don't show up. And I don't know if there was just some sort of memo that was sent out, like, 'Don't

The magic number is 20 per cent, so New Democrats aside, everyone is talking about 20 per cent. The Royalty Review Panel comes out with 20 per cent, and so the Stelmach response comes up with a different version of 20 per cent."

What no one points out when they examine those statements [is that] although they will say we're getting more royalties in 2010, we'll actually be getting less in 2010. Because the 20 per cent is a reference to what would have been taken in under the old system in 2010, not what we took in in 2006. So if the assumptions are right, in 2010, Alberta will take in from energy nearly \$1 billion less than it took in in 2006."

So I think Albertans think that this is a cash cow that's just going to give for ever and ever and ever and there's more money coming from this sector in the future, and there could be an increase in royalty rates, but the way we're operating right now, there's a physical day of reckoning that's going to come at some point in Alberta—there are environmental misconceptions about the oil sands, and there are fiscal misconceptions about the oil sands."

SP: "I think a huge misconception is that this is a debate between jobs versus environment, and that's something that neo-Conservatives will always bring up when talking about the environment, but it's really pathetic how much they've been able to get away with it. This really isn't a discussion

about jobs and the environment—it's a discussion about the future of Alberta, like where do we want to go? We can't live off of resources, these non-renewable resources, forever—we have to make this decision eventually, and we're going to have to move our jobs somewhere else. Not just for the future of the environment, but for where we're developing these resources and what our economy is based off of, and it is really pathetic how much they've been able to get away with that debate."

The second thing is that [...] aboriginal communities are being destroyed. People are dying because of these projects. And I don't know how you can get away with saying that's not happening because it is—the studies have come out; it's proven that communities are being destroyed. And so I know how that is not an issue that's up for discussion here. Just the other day, aboriginal communities got together

and said 'Stop it. Stop this project. We can't survive.' And where is that?"

What is the right pace of development?

RP: "Well, the tarsands is a huge economic reality in Alberta. So to talk about the Alberta economy you can't avoid talking about the central role of fossil fuel production in this province. So we must talk about why we're doing it. Why we're doing it at the rate at which we're doing it, expanding it. Who benefits from it the most, and should we or should we not maximize the returns on it to Albertans in general? That's one big question."

The second [question], of course, is the ecological and environmental impact. Very little attention is being paid to that, as a matter of fact. Those huge tailing ponds—I haven't heard anyone talk about those lakes of poisonous materials, toxic materials. And there's no guarantee, in [the] laws and statutes of the province, that the companies that are responsible for producing those tailing ponds are taking responsibility to take care of them within foreseeable time limits, that you've got to do it in ten years or 15 years or whatever. To leave those toxic pits open forever, without any legislative guarantee that it is the responsibility of producers to take care of them, is a huge sleeper issue that no one has really addressed."

And the third issue is the issue of the pace. [...] Why is it so crucial that we allow the expansion of operations,

the approval of new projects, on the scale that we've been doing it, to continue into the future? Why do we not insist there's a need to slow it down, if for no other reason—no ecological concerns, no environmental concerns, no cultural concerns of the small communities there—at least for the economic health of the province? Even if you use that as a major reason to slow down, I think there are enough reasons to say 'slow down.' Look at the rising labour costs. Look at the labour shortages. Look at the impact of these two things on the cost of housing, infrastructure development, [...] all of these reasons call for a slow-down of the rate of growth."

IU: "On that note, I think one misconception people have is that the market knows best and that the state has absolutely no positive role to play in managing growth and in trying to balance

served by whatever decisions they make? And so the regulatory role of government is critical to this."

DC: "So much of [the debate] has been about the fiscal side of it, about 'What kind of revenue are we going to collect from it?' and I think until recently, there hasn't been someone who's started to articulate the environmental consequences of it, and I think it's because it's 'out of sight, out of mind.' [...] Maybe more people should go up to Ft McMurray and see what those tailing ponds look like, because I think if every Albertan had an opportunity to go up there, they'd change their mind."

SP: "It's disappointing to me that no political party has taken the position that [tarsands development] needs a moratorium or it needs to stop. There seems to be a conversation

to make meaningful change, they may have to repudiate some of what they've done in the past. So I don't expect much change from the Tories' re-election.

But political parties are not the only factors in determining change. Powers outside the Legislature, behind the scenes. Alberta's power structure has been changing quite dramatically. Calgary—no wonder everyone refers to it as Alberta's new capital, it is indeed. Enormous economic power is concentrated in those shiny towers in Calgary. So things have changed. We shouldn't simply look to a political party to come into power to change the situation; [...] we need to engage in analysis of the power structure in Alberta, which is quite different from what it was 20 or 25 years ago.

It would be implausible to say that New Democrats have any chance of getting elected as a government on March 3rd—the only plausible alter-

say, 'No one up there is saying what I want to hear, what I need to hear, and we need to do something about that.' And that's sort of what I'm hoping comes out of this election, that civil society says, 'It's time for you guys to actually what we believe.'"

IU: "To go back to what I said at the beginning about the dissection and what's the electoral map going to look like, if I'm right, I think the next government will be a Conservative government that will have even more representation from outside Edmonton and Calgary in percentage terms than it does now. So that makes me think in terms of what can we expect from that government in terms of policy, it makes me expect 'not much'—not much in terms of change, and frankly, I think we've seen some signs of that already. Stelmach, despite saying we've got the royalty agreement that he did, has backed off on that since then.

If it's a minority or a reduced majority, then I hope that's going to mean that we're going to see stronger opposition in the Legislature just by the mere presence of opposition MLAs [...] and then, when [we talk] about ridings in Calgary with 60 000 constituents, we're looking at an electoral redistribution for next time. So I think if one wants to be positive about what can happen from within, I think the voices for change are going to be strengthened in Alberta in this election.

Change is coming, and it's going to be forced on us. So we have to take notice of what's going on in California when it comes to things like vehicle emission standards; we have to take notice of what at this point is just, I would argue, symbolic legislation, but makes an important statement, that Congress has passed in respect to federal vehicles and using 'dirty' oil versus 'cleaner' oil. Those are signs that others outside are changing their attitudes to things that are really crucial to how we've made our lives in the past.

If we don't embrace change and we don't see the need for change ourselves, it's going to be forced on us from outside."

RP: "To rephrase your question if I may, rather than saying what kind of meaningful change is likely to happen this election, [we should ask] 'What kind of Legislature should we elect for meaningful change to happen? And I think it would be the one that produces a minority government.

You have to change the balance of power within the Legislature. When a party has an unequivocal majority, and especially when it's a party that has already been there for 37 years, you can't expect change to happen. But once it's pushed into a situation of a minority where it's required to survive, it must negotiate, it must listen to more than just its own lobbyists—then there's a possibility of formulating new changes when that will occur. So wish for a minority government. Will it happen? Who knows?"

"We have lived here a version of laissez-faire that's more extreme than what the Canadian government in the 1890s was prepared to tolerate when it came to the Klondike gold rush, and the government then was more interventionist in terms of trying to manage what was taking place up there for that gold rush than we have been for this black-gold rush that's been going on."

—IAN URQUHART

different objectives and trying to create a good livelihood, which means more than just a big paycheck for some people—it means a healthy environment; it means good job opportunities, good educational opportunities, good life chances, all those sorts of things. And when you look at what's happened in this province since the mid-1990s, we have lived here a version of laissez-faire that's more extreme than what the Canadian government in the 1890s was prepared to tolerate when it came to the Klondike gold rush, and the government then was more interventionist in terms of trying to manage what was taking place up there for that gold rush than we have been for this black-gold rush that's been going on. 'Plan' is not a four-letter word, [but] that's the belief the Klein government operated on."

RP: "And companies plan. These are huge corporations, big entities—these are bigger than most governments in this world—and they plan. Why is it wrong for our government—democratically elected—to simply be given the responsibility of doing any planning? If they're not about the public interest, if they're not about the public good, what else are they about? Philosophically speaking, what is the role of government if not to protect public interest, to define public interest and devise policies around it, to make sure that it's protected and enhanced and well-

about, 'Well, we need to evaluate the situation,' but I'm not sure how much more we need to evaluate—we know what's going on up there, and I think it's time for someone to say, 'This needs to stop; this needs to slow down,' besides Peter Lougheed and Greenpeace.

One other misconception that I've heard is that if we stop it or if we slow it down, the United States will hate us—and there may be some element of truth to that—but first of all, isn't it a problem that we're destroying our own province for the export to another country? That needs to be evaluated. And secondly, if we are doing that, we need to start tossing out some of these agreements. It's because no one's talking about the possibility beyond what's immediately happening that we're not getting these new ideas out there."

All major parties—including the Conservatives—have talked about change. Do you think we're going to see meaningful change in this election? Is it possible if the same party stays in power?

RP: "Being in power for 37 years creates certain kinds of difficulties. How do you disown your past? Political parties very much live on their reputation—what they've done so far, and what they will do therefore in the future—so for a party that has stayed in power for 37 years, it's difficult to expect much change because in order

native are the Liberals. The question is, then, can the Liberal party strike a new direction which is radically different from what's been going on? Can it in fact institute policies and bring in programs that result in meaningful change? I'm skeptical.

DC: "A lot of people have been talking about how it's just been an incredibly boring election campaign, yet it's a campaign where nobody knows what the results are going to be. A lot of people are saying Conservative government, but I've talked to a lot of people who are saying minority [government], and they don't laugh afterwards like before.

I look at the undecided vote, and the last poll had it around 18 per cent. In the last week of the campaign, that seems pretty big. Whether those people actually show up to vote, whether they move en masse to vote for one party, where exactly are those voters?"

SP: "I think there is the possibility for a change—even a minority government. But what I'm hoping comes out of this election is a stronger presence from civil society, from Albertans themselves. I think there are some missing pieces in progressive movements in Alberta—there's not a lot of more radical stances being taken by Albertans as in the past, and I'm hoping that maybe after this election, regardless of the results, Albertans might be a little bit more willing to

Students' Union Employment Opportunities



TERMS OF OFFICE: MAY 1 2008 TO APRIL 30, 2009 (IN MOST CASES)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008, 5:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS

SUBMIT APPLICATION, COVER LETTER, RESUMES AND 3 REFERENCES (NAME & PHONE NUMBERS) TO 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS: AVAILABLE AT SU RECEPTION DESK 2-900 SUB, AND SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLIC INFO BOOTHS OR ONLINE AT WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA.

Important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies; however, ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions are subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

Why not work on campus in a position that fits your class schedule? As an associate vice president you will gain valuable experience in volunteer management, budgeting and project management. All associate vice presidents are required to be in the office a minimum of 20 hours/week and are paid \$1300/month.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Reports to the VP Academic. Assists and reports on various academic issues – coordinating projects related to academic affairs. Represent the VP Academic and serve as the resource person for COFA, the ARG, GFCSC and student reps on University committees.

Remuneration: \$1300/month

For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel: at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Reports to the VP External. Assists with organization of on and off-campus events designed to introduce members of the community and prospective students to the Students' Union and the U of A.

Remuneration: \$1300/month

For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky: 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Reports to the VP Student Life. Assists with the programming, events and the volunteer management components of the Student Life portfolio as well as other duties.

Remuneration: \$1300/month

For further information contact the VP Student Life Chris Le: 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 2, starting at 5:00 pm.

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to Students' Council and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.

Remuneration: \$6667.50 honoraria

For further information contact Catherine van de Braak: ea@su.ualberta.ca

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 5:00 pm.

Passionate about giving back to the campus community? Looking for invaluable work experience? Apply to be a service director with the Students' Union! You will supervise staff and volunteers, oversee a budget, market the service and ensure the overall smooth running of the service. All service director positions are 30 hours per week and report to the Senior Manager of Student Services.

ECOS (ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION OFFICE OF STUDENTS) DIRECTOR

The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union and students on campus.

Remuneration: \$1536/month

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 7:00 pm.

OMBUDSERVICE (2)

(Term of Employment: May 1, 2008 – August 31, 2009)

The OmbudService is a joint U of A and SU service. The service is an advocate for fairness and due process and is responsible for information and referral on University policy, and protocols related to the academic and personal well being of all students.

Remuneration: \$1558/month

Interviews scheduled for Friday, March 28, starting at 4:30 pm.

SAFEWALK DIRECTOR

The Safewalk Director is responsible for the overall operation of the Safewalk program, including working with other units on campus to improve and promote safety on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.

Remuneration: \$1590/month

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 27, starting at 7:00 pm.

STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE DIRECTOR

In conjunction with the Distress Line, the SDC Director offers peer counseling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. Applicants must have at least one year of comparable peer-counseling experience.

Remuneration: \$1590/month

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, starting at 4:30 pm.

STUDENT GROUP SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Student Group Services Director is responsible for organizing and providing support to a diverse array of over 300 student groups on campus, including group registration, risk management, training and granting.

Remuneration: \$1536/month

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, March 27 starting at 4:30 pm.

For further information contact the Manager of Student Services at 492-4236

Volunteer Opportunities Boards & Committees



TERMS OF OFFICE: MAY 1 2008 TO APRIL 30, 2009 (IN MOST CASES)

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Important instructions

- Please submit only single sided documents. We thank everyone who applies, however ONLY shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions are subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

ACADEMIC RELATIONS GROUP

- Participate in activities raising student awareness of academic issues
- Assists and advises the Vice President Academic on academic issues.
- Participates in workshops & seminars to improve teaching on campus

For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel: 492-4236.
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

CAMPAIGN PLANNING AND ACTION COMMITTEE

- Assists and advises the Vice President External
- Is actively involved in planning and implementing SU campus campaigns and events

For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky: 492-4236.
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 10, after 5:00 pm.

STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- Makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment, planning & implementation
- Plans and implements WOW & Anti-Freeze
- Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

For further information contact VP Student Life Chris Le: 492-4236
Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 11, after 5:00 PM

STUDENT LIFE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Provides input on non-academic issues on campus
- Provides input on Student Services issues
- Plans and implements WOW & Anti-Freeze
- Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

For further information contact VP Student Life Chris Le at 492-4236
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, after 5:00 PM

AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Selects annual SU award winners
 - Involved in numerous aspects of planning annual awards night
- For further information contact the Executive Assistant Catherine van de Braak: 492-4241.*
Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 2 after 5:00 PM

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Requires one undergraduate student
- To recommend policy and serve as the focal point for consideration of policy issues in the University community

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm

ONECARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Requires one undergraduate student to provide feedback and guidance on all aspects of the current and future ONEcard operations

MEETS: At the call of the Chair

For further information on Standing Committees contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel at 492-4236.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- Requires three undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- The Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public. The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.

MEETS: Four times yearly

For further information contact the VP External Steven Dollansky at 492-4236
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

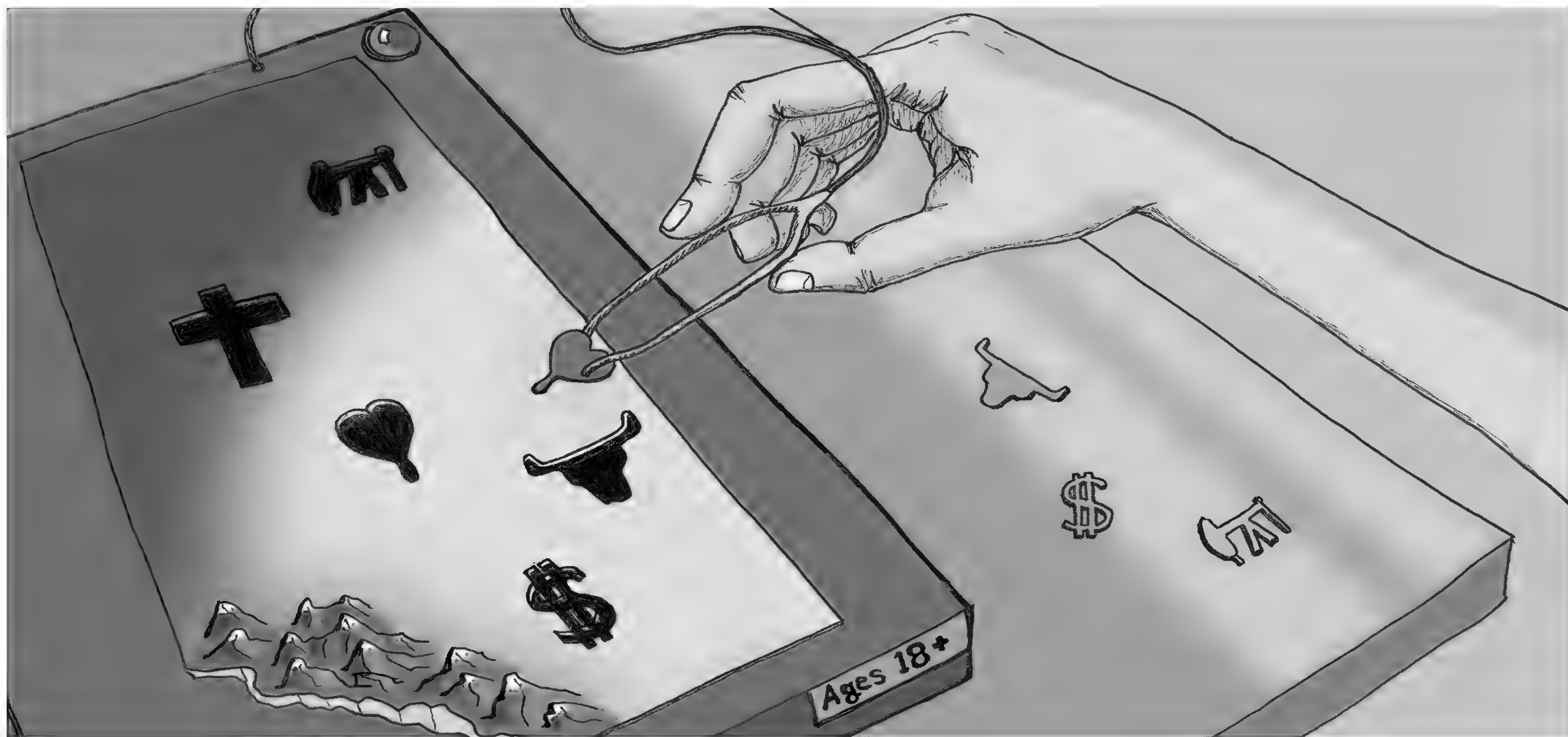
FACULTY BASED INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY STEERING COMMITTEE

- Requires four undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- Successful candidates should have an interest and basic knowledge of information/communication technology and/or campus computing environments.

For further information contact the VP Academic Bobby Samuel at 492-4236
Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 7, after 5:00 pm.

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 36 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 28 february, 2008



LAUREN ALSTON

ELECTION DISSECTION The *Gateway* has assembled a panel of political pundits for its first ever provincial election roundtable. At least, we think it's the first. To get their take on the issues, turn to page 15.

Engineers get on the right side with new symposium

Event aims to dispel the myths of engineers and show the analytical side of the technical field

SEAN STEELS
News Writer

The Faculty of Engineering is looking to expand awareness of a lesser-known and more artistic facet of the engineering discipline with an event called Exploring the “Right” Side of Engineering on 28 February.

Kelsey Chegus, a student in the Faculty, explained that the event, which will be held from 11am-1pm in the ETLC solarium, will feature a speech by Larry Staples, former president of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA), as well as smaller group discussions led by professors and professionals in the field.

"The format of the event is going to be a guest presentation for about 20 minutes by Mr Staples. He is going to talk about the importance of right-brained thinking in engineering practice," Chegus said.

The idea for the event started as a discussion between Chegus and Roger Toogood, an engineering professor, on ethics and morals in the field.

"I wanted to talk to him about an article that was in the APEGGA about ethics and the discussion kind of snowballed from there about the

different sides of engineering,” Chegus explained. “We decided to come up with a way to celebrate and honour the people that are in the engineering field.”

“I’ve really struggled throughout my degree with the culture of engineering and hearing stories about industry and Alberta, in particular, being very oil- and gas-focused.”

KELSEY CHEGUS
ENGINEERING STUDENT

Integral to celebrating the people who make up the field, Chegus said, is showcasing them as well-rounded people, not just engineers. Many of the professionals and professors chosen to help with group discussions are those with a background in arts or music. A main focus of the event will be to challenge the commonly held misconception that engineers are insensitive human calculators.

PLEASE SEE **RIGHT SIDE** ♦ PAGE 9

Poli Sci prof heads to New York NGO

Knight will lead the newly formed Global Centre for Responsibility to Protect.

JEN HUYGEN
News Staff

This June, University of Alberta professor Andy Knight will be relocating his office from the eleventh floor of the Tory Building to a spacious suite on Fifth Avenue in New York City to begin his tenure as executive director of the new Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect.

Knight, a professor of international relations in the Department of Political Science and the director of the Peace and Post Conflict Studies Certificate Programme, was named to the position on 14 February and will officially begin his role on 1 June, 2008.

In his role as executive director, Knight will be responsible for collaborating with the international community to develop strategies for advocacy, prevention, and intervention relating to mass atrocities.

“This Centre was designed to try to help the United Nations and the UN Secretary-General’s office identify conflicts before they actually become conflicts,” Knight said. “And if they do happen to break out into conflicts, then also identify rapid reaction capabilities of the United Nations to handle these situations [...] and try to quell the conflicts and stop the possibility of mass slaughter, of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.”

Arising out of discussions at the 2005 International Commission on State Sovereignty, the Responsibility to



MIKE OTTO

A NEW YORK KNIGHT Andy Knight takes leave from the U of A for the Big Apple.

Protect (R2P) centers around the obligation of states to protect their populations against crimes of genocide and mass atrocity and the responsibility of the international community to intervene in states that fail to protect their

own populations from these crimes.

According to Knight, R2P is now considered a global norm that can be used across the globe to combat situations of domestic conflict.

PLEASE SEE **KNIGHT** ♦ PAGE 3

Inside

News	1-9
Opinion	10-14
Feature	15-17
A&E	20-24
Sports	25-28
Classifieds	29
Comics	30-31



Hungry for speed

Not only is Skid Row racing through town, but bassist Rachel Bolan has a new rev-heavy hobby.

A&E, PAGE 20



Hungry for info

Check out the Pulitzer-esque coverage of the Lister candidates' forum by our award winning reporters. Seriously.

COMICS, PAGE 30

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

The Trillionaires

Directed by Kurt Spenrath
Starring Trevor Duplessis, Matthew Kloster, and Ryan Hughes
27 February – 9 March at 8pm (except Mondays); Sundays have 2pm Matinees
B-Scene Studios (8212 104 street)

"This is a comedy about greed, power, ham-fucking, and the Nobel Prize." Uh, right. A somewhat-truthful account of the Long Term Capital Management company, which had a significant influence on hedge funds in the '90s, *The Trillionaires* depicts what may have happened between the leaders of the enterprise, who amassed a global wealth of \$1.2 trillion before the US government stepped in, putting an end to both their monopoly and their deviant propensity for cold cuts.

Penned by first-time playwright Kurt Spenrath and starring several U of A BFA graduates, *The Trillionaires* contains "strong (and impressive) profanity throughout," inspired by the vulgar language of the Enron tapes. The play is perfect for theatre fans with an interest in comedy, investment banking, and porcine fetishes.

City of Men

Opens 29 February
Directed by Paulo Morelli
Starring Douglas Silva and Darlan Cunha
Princess Theatre (10377 82 avenue)

Based on a TV series of the same name that followed the events of the critically acclaimed, Academy Award-nominated 2003 film *City of God*, *City of Men* tells the continuing tale of two of the boys living in the violent and dangerous favela slums in Rio de Janeiro. Somewhat more light-hearted than its predecessor (though that isn't saying much), the film features several of the actors from the first film, many of whom had never acted prior to *City of God* and were actual residents from the slums in Rio, including the notorious City of God area.

Artists Emerge Dance Competition

Saturday, 1 March at 7:30am, Final Showdown at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium (11455 87 avenue)

Putting a focus on Canadian hip-hop culture, this all-day dance competition will feature categories in both dance studios and professional crew battles, giving breakers a chance to showcase their skills to a panel of choreographers from New York and Los Angeles. The day ends with a final showdown where dancers will drop their funkier, freshest moves in a ferocious and epic struggle to stomp the yard.

After substantial macho posturing, ego tripping, and vigorous sass talk, many homeboys and punkasses are expected to get served, and several streets will reportedly be stepped up 2.

Crystal Castles

With *Health*, *Degree*, and *Acid Wash*
Monday, 3 March at 8pm
Starlite Room (10030 102 street)

Crystal Castles is so emo that they're not emo. This Toronto band, named after the Crystal Castle in the *She-Ra: Princess of Power* animated TV series, cite murder, knives, and blank looks on girls' faces as their primary influences. Yet the group is generating a lot of positive buzz among the music community with their experimental style of music and novel use of electronica, such as fitting a keyboard with an Atari 5200 sound processor.

The band's first single, "Alice Practice," received significant label attention after it got posted to their MySpace page in 2005. Since then, the Castles duo has toured both Europe and the US, and they did a stint last year supporting Metric.

JOHN KMECH
Ask for him by name



Skid Row still lapping North America

At least bassist Rachel Bolan is—while not touring with the band, he's speeding around a racetrack

musicpreview

Skid Row

With *Art of Dying* and *Kiros*
Friday, 29 February at 8pm
Edmonton Events Centre

JOHN KMECH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Hair metal stardom and drag racing go together like Motley Crüe and drug abuse. However, few people actually get to live the experience of kickstarting the hearts of 20 000 screaming fans in an arena and also blazing past the finish line in a dragster. But Rachel Bolan, bassist for veteran hard rock act Skid Row, is both a seasoned rocker and racer. His passion for driving started around the same time as his passion for music, and it hasn't slowed—even after being on the road for two decades.

"My older brother was into [racing]; he always took me to drag races and stock car races when I lived in New Jersey when I was a kid," the laid-back Bolan explains over the phone. "I became a Dale Earnhardt fan through him and got into NASCAR, which I still love. It's cool now because I know a lot of the drivers."

Born James Southworth, Bolan founded Skid Row in 1986 with current guitarist Dave "The Snake" Sabo. The band was one of the last hair metal acts to find success in the mainstream music market, as their self-titled

debut went multi-platinum, and the followup *Slave to the Grind* was also a major hit in the US.

Following some internal skirmishes that led to several lineup shuffles, the departure of singer Sebastian Bach, a hiatus period, and a number of drummer changes that Bolan describes as "very *Spinal Tap*-ish," the band has settled into a relatively stable lineup in the past few years, albeit with fewer terminal cases of '80s hair. The group has toured with some of the biggest names in rock, including Aerosmith, Guns 'N Roses, Tesla, and a certain group of face painted rock stars that Bolan describes as very influential.

"Doing the KISS tour—nothing has to be said about that, growing up as a KISS fan," Bolan notes enthusiastically. "[Gene Simmons] was one of my biggest influences. I mean, I didn't even know what the bass was [growing up], but I wanted to play with the guy that spit blood. We did, I think, 130 shows with them, and I must have watched them in the majority of those shows. It was great."

Unlike KISS, Skid Row remains an active band, releasing a new album, *Revolutions Per Minute*, in 2006. The group continues to tour and is writing a new album at the moment, and despite Bolan's continual involvement with the band, he finds time to act as a producer, and is also currently writing a book based on his experiences on the road, containing his memoirs and stories about the numerous rock stars he's met and celebrities he's almost partied with.

"The most interesting person that I almost partied with was David Lee Roth," Bolan recalls with a laugh. "I met him back in the day [at a club]. It was just a chance meeting, and he offered to buy me a drink. He ended up walking away without paying for the drink."

When not on tour with the group, Bolan devotes most of his time to his other hobby: burning rubber and capturing the checkered flag. His fondness for racing inspired him to start his own motorsports company, which allowed him a chance to go beyond his stage presence to connect with fans.

"I started Rachel Bolan Motorsports so that Skid Row fans could see what I do outside the band. I race cars called legend cars. I also race thunder roadsters and go-karts. Whenever I get a chance to race, I always put my schedule up so fans can hang out and watch me race. I still make a lot of noise, but they can see me do something other than jump around on stage."

After 22 years of high-octane performances, playing music still hasn't gotten old for Bolan. He says that he still gets the same thrill as he did when he started, and in that, there's a certain familiarity between his two lifelong loves.

"Racing and playing are so similar. Putting on my fire suit is like putting on my stage gear. Walking down the hallway is like getting ready to go onto the race track."

"It's the same thing: you hit that pedal, and it's like, 'Ladies and gentlemen, Skid Row.' Except I don't have to worry about flipping when I'm onstage."

TWO DECADES OF SKIDDING OUT

- While Skid Row's self-titled debut went quintuple platinum and had three hit singles, the success was bittersweet: they'd waived their publishing royalty rights to Jon Bon Jovi's Underground Music Company. Bon Jovi, along with associate Richie Sambora, got most of that cash, though Sambora gave it back after a very public dispute. Bon Jovi did not.

- In 1989, the band's then-vocalist, Sebastian Bach, was heavily criticized for donning a shirt that read

"AIDS kills fags dead" during a concert. A fan had tossed it onstage, and Bach put it on without looking. He later apologized and made a large donation to an AIDS charity.

- In 1996, Bach was fired, and a few months later, so was drummer Rob Affuso. Though Skid Row never officially split, the remaining members toured under the name Ozone Monday for a while, eventually reforming Skid Row in 1999 with new members. Bach went on to play in a

few other bands and dabble in Broadway theatre, playing Riff Raff in a stage production of *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He was fired from the latter for his diva-like demands.

- Despite releasing two post-Bach albums, the band's still waiting for that next hit. Although Bach's gone on record saying he'd welcome an original line-up reunion, the rest of the band seem adamantly opposed.



Semi-Pro a slam dunk for Ferrell

The funnyman lets his team handle the plot and scores baskets of laughs

filmreview

Semi-Pro

Opens 29 February

Directed by Kent Alterman

Starring Will Ferrell, André Benjamin, Woody Harrelson, and David Koechner

SEAN STEELS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Oh, Will Ferrell. Your satiny voice slinks through our ears, like the exotic love-child of a jaguar and a box of silken q-tips. Or at least that's the impression we're supposed to get of Jackie Moon, the character you play in your newest film, *Semi-Pro*.

Unfortunately, for those not of this opinion, the first ten minutes of the movie might be a little jarring. Jackie Moon isn't just a local basketball star—he's also the owner and coach of the semi-professional basketball team on which he plays. And not to squander any talent, he's also the singer and writer of '70s one hit wonder "Love Me Sexy," featured prominently throughout the movie.

Semi-Pro is the story of the Flint Tropics, an American Basketball Association (ABA) team from Flint, Michigan. Composed almost entirely of misfits, with the exception of Clarence "Coffee" Black (André Benjamin), the team is

comfortable with mediocrity and flashy halftime shows until they find out the ABA will soon be absorbed into the NBA. While this opens up a door of opportunity for the players, only select teams will be allowed to advance.

Predictably, these teams are to be selected based on performance, and only the top four will proceed to NBA glory. Fierce competition ensues, and the new guy Monix (Woody Harrelson), a talented but anger-fraught veteran, is brought in to help the team bring home the championship—or at least fourth place.

But typecast though he may be, Ferrell still manages to keep his jokes fresh and funny while romping through the afro-crazy antics of '70s basketball culture.

As far as sports film go, *Semi-Pro* is a shameless spoof. But the hilarity that ensues from Jackie Moon's efforts to keep the team in accordance with ABA regulations and meet the ridiculous attendance numbers demanded of the league underdogs are enough to make you forget you were even watching a competition.

Of course, Jackie Moon isn't all that different from Ferrell's recent characters. He has all the boisterous bravado of Ricky Bobby from *Talladega Nights*, all the salacious jokes of *Anchorman's* Ron Burgundy, and all the athletic prowess of Chazz Michael Michaels from *Blades of Glory*.

But typecast though he may be, Ferrell still manages to keep his jokes fresh and funny while romping through the afro-crazy antics of '70s basketball culture. The movie has a solid helping of his comedic stylings from start to finish without imitating the comic's previous successes too closely.

The movie's biggest surprise is the performance from the rest of the cast—Ferrell doesn't rely heavily on his set of B-list frat-packers. Standards like David Koechner, Rob Corddry, and Will Arnett make steady appearances throughout the film, but the majority of attention is focused on Harrelson and Benjamin. In fact, by *Semi-Pro's* halfway point, the majority of plot and development are focused on Harrelson, leaving Ferrell to sling jokes comfortably from the sidelines. By putting Harrelson and Benjamin in charge of carrying the sense of the movie, Ferrell's free to take care of the nonsense.

With Ferrell on the sidelines, *Semi-Pro* manages to avoid a *Blades of Glory*-esque disaster.



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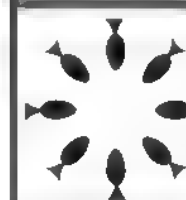
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Cancer Bats have fellow Canuck friends help *Hail Destroyer*

This Toronto-dwelling four-piece may not drink like you'd expect, but they've got the best of Canada's hardcore scene behind them

musicpreview

Cancer Bats

With guests

Friday, 29 February at 7pm

Avenue Skate Park (9030 118 avenue)

CANDACE MCCOY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Liam Cormier of Cancer Bats is brimming with enthusiasm on the first day of their cross-Canada tour.

"The sun is shining. I'm hoping the snow is going to melt while we drive out across the country," he says. "The fact that we are playing a skate park is going to be rad, too. I'll get to skate in the afternoon, so it is like the perfect day."

The band will be in town previewing their latest album, *Hail Destroyer*, which is set to be released on 22 March. Judging by the title track recently released on the band's MySpace, fans of explosive hardcore rock are sure to be pleased by the band's growing intensity—something Cormier attributes to their improving technical skills.

"We definitely wanted to step up when it came time to write the second record," he says. "I guess we wanted to out-do ourselves. Since the first record came out, all of us have become better players, [...] and we wanted to really push that."

"And there's just me yelling a lot more," he adds. "My voice has gotten a lot stronger and more intense, so when it came time to writing new stuff, it ended up being a lot screamier."



Hail Destroyer is a result of newly-seasoned musicians pushing themselves and exerting complete autonomy over their career path. More confident than ever, when it came time to record, they felt like they could go it alone without the outside influence of a producer.

"I don't think we need a producer at this point; we are pretty much all producing it ourselves," he explained. "It was awesome [...] because everyone was getting their own input on what we wanted and what we wanted

to improve on from the last record and where we saw this album going. It was like a big open forum."

The forum that was created involved guest spots from the likes of Billy Talent and Alexisonfire, whom Liam speaks of like family. He's clearly appreciative of his Canadian brethren and their collaborative effort on *Hail Destroyer*. Although much lesser known than their Canadian counterparts, Cancer Bats have carved out a comfortable niche for themselves outside of

mainstream commercial success.

"People who listen to us are dedicated to listening to Pantera since they were little kids," Cormier says. "They don't really give a shit what's on the radio."

It's natural to assume that a band of the hardcore persuasion would carry that intensity to their personal lives, but Liam lives the hard-rocking life of a straight-edge.

"It does take a lot of people by surprise because I think that people who are listening to our music are totally

wasted, and it sounds like I drink a lot of whiskey and all that stuff," he admits. "I think that's kind of intriguing, but to us, [guitarist] Scott Middleton and I have been straight edge for so long that it's not really a big deal. [Drinking]'s just something we don't do."

Playing hardcore, though, is something they do just for the sheer joy of the music.

"This is the kind of music we love playing. And what makes us want to move around and, like, get crazy."



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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND THE MEDIA



A few *Vantage Points* too many

Pete Travis' many-eyed approach to his film is promising but poorly executed

filmreview

Vantage Point

Now Playing

Directed by Pete Travis

Starring Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox, Forrest Whitaker, William Hurt, and Sigourney Weaver

CANDACE MCCOY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In Pete Travis' directorial debut, the US president gets shot at a fictional terrorist summit in Spain. Following the two bullets to his chest is a series of explosions, leaving the arena looking like a war torn country and opening what should be a blood-pumping political romp with a bang.

Travis adopts a "stop-rewind-replay" approach to the film: we're shown the assassination sequence from different people's perspectives, which lets us examine that same scene five times from the viewpoints of the people whose lives have become entwined as a result of the assassination attempt. The film adopts the *Rashomon*-style of believing that the truth will be revealed through the conflicting reports of others.

It sounds like a promising

premise, and once you add in the obligatory car chase—which seems spliced in from the *Bourne* series—you have all the makings of an intense political thriller.

By the third "rewind," the audience I was in collectively groaned, as what could have been a fresh perspective was instead more redundancy.

The problem is that when you're designing a film that chooses style over substance, it ought to be visually dazzling, provocative, and original; *Vantage Point* is rather shallow and mundane. By the third "rewind," the audience I was in collectively groaned, as what could have been a fresh perspective was instead more redundancy.

Sigourney Weaver was initially a big draw as the controlled, calculating television producer covering the summit. Her vantage point is a layered and dynamic perspective, but the intrigue is gone with the introduction of Dennis

Quaid as a tired and unsympathetic Secret Service agent.

He's on his first day back after taking a bullet for the president in a prior assassination attempt, and while that irony's rather amusing, it's not the laugh-out-loud spectacle that double-agent Kent Taylor (Matthew Fox)'s eastern European accent is.

Even the naïve sincerity of tourist Forrest Whitaker seems misplaced in this attempted blockbuster. The gems of this film's acting lie with the Spanish-speaking actors, particularly Eduardo Noriega, who offers a glimpse of sincerity and earnestness otherwise missing from the film. But although their emotion is palpable, we never know why any of them are motivated to kill the president.

Given the lack of international approval for George W Bush, perhaps writer Barry Levy felt the desire to assassinate the president is ubiquitous. But creating a back story for the terrorist would have provided a necessary complexity. The film rather acts as a placebo for the present-day regime by providing us with a president that is reasoned, noble, controlled, and a cogent communicator.

Oh, how the world may have been different if William Hurt was president.

Spend any amount of time on the Internet, and you're sure to come across any one of the stereotypical subcultures that propagate within the web's forums. Chances are, you might even be a part of one of these groups.

But if you've got no idea how the Internet works and have always wanted to try your hand at a flame war through the safety of simulation, ForumWarz is for you.

ForumWarz is a browser-based Role Playing Game that lets you play as one of three colourful character classes. As a Cam Whore, you can utilize your sex appeal and some creative camera angles to get your way online. As an Emo Kid, you can band together with fellow Simple Plan

fans and pollute the Web with your awful poetry and attention-seeking suicide threats. Or you can take the path of the Troll and fill the Internet with as much douchebagery and inane bullshit as the game's fictional bulletin boards can hold until they crack under the stress of your mighty "pwnage."

With an in-game instant messaging system that mimics traditional adventure games' click-through conversations and an assortment of community-created forums that paint a hilarious parody of the Internet's real subcultures, ForumWarz is a complex, vulgar, and certainly not-safe-for-work sendup of the Web's gritty underbelly.

siteunseen



www.forumwarz.com

MIKE KENDRICK
Design & Production Editor

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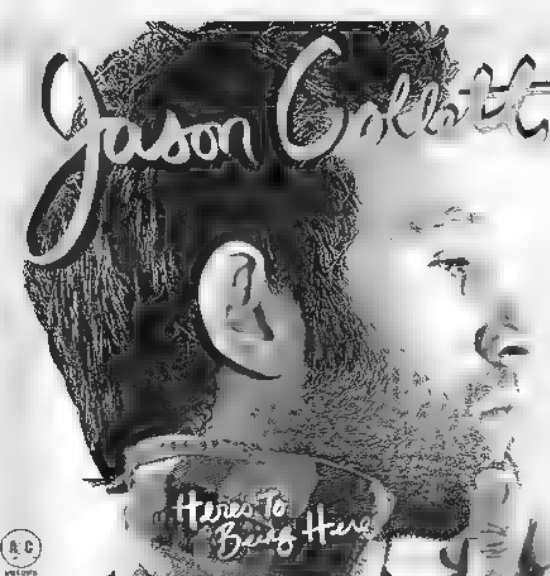


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featured album

Jason Collett

Here's to Being Here
Arts & Crafts

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

We're pretty lucky to have such an amazing pool of young talent in Canada's music industry; between the likes of Joel Plaskett, The Weakerthans' John K. Samson, and Hayden, one of our greatest exports is our singer/songwriter/storytellers.

But someone that should definitely be added to that list is Jason Collett. A some time member of Broken Social Scene, Collett's fifth solo

release, *Here's to Being Here*, is a testament to his talent, versatility, and songwriting ability.

From the folk-rock-inspired opening track "Roll On Oblivion" to the percussive driven, near-spoken-word song "Charlyn, Angel of Kensington," Collett covers an unorthodox amount of musical styles through *Here's to Being Here*. But each song is crafted so well that, even with the often-abrupt changes of style, nothing seems out of place.

But what ties *Here's to Being Here* together is Collett's ability write complex songs that still pull listeners in. Listening to Collett's borderline raspy voice tell a story about driving through central Canada attempting to redeem himself for some unspeakable wrong he's done over a simple banjo roll is incredibly engaging. You can't just put this record on and continue with your day—you're forced to stop and listen as every lyric carries so much weight in a story of uncertain hopefulness.

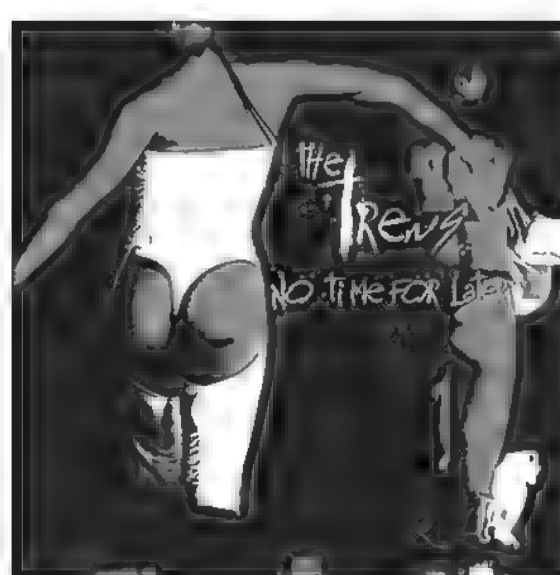
In only five releases, Jason Collett has achieved a higher level of songwriting and performing than many artists will across their whole careers. And if the quality *Here's to Being Here* is any indication, he's only going to get better.

Listen to tracks from *Here's to Being Here* on the Editor's Playlist at www.thegatewayonline.ca



Much like with the Mona Lisa, we may never know what Bowie's smiling at here. But it's probably a rock journalist. You could be that rock journalist, by coming to a **Gateway A&E meeting**, most **Thursdays at 5**, and taking an assignment.

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albumreview

The Trews

No Time For Later
Bumstead

KATHLEEN BELL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The Trews are pirates—experts at sailing the rolling seas of rock's history. Name an authority on the genre—the Rolling Stones, CCR, Tom Petty—and you'll find that the musical riches contributed by them and others have been plundered by this gang of marauding Maritimers. On their latest voyage into the studio, they brought those shiny treasures with them, brazenly integrating rock's past with its present on *No Time For Later*.

Of course, any band with such a

bounty of influences risks producing a record that's simultaneously derivative and confused. Luckily, The Trews have their own trademark: thick hooks and irresistible melodies. The album storms in with forceful yet undeniably danceable grooves, which then give way to sweet lamentations on lost love that, while gentler, have just as much swag. As a result, *No Time For Later* feels both fresh and tight.

Although the weight of each song rests on catchy riffs, little surprises pop up

on nearly every track. A Hammond B3 organ lurks in the background of "Feel the Rain"; strapping bagpipes rush in on the heels of a stampeding drum intro on "Can't Stop Laughing"; a looping fade carries out "Ocean's End," mimicking the "carry on" sentiment of the chorus; and, perhaps the most unusual yet pleasing quirk of the whole album, a good-time-saloon piano opens "Paranoid Freak." Seemingly ripped from a western, this throwback to when you could tell the good guys from the bad guys by the colour of their hats proves to be the perfect counterpoint to the song's theme of "21st century fear of everything."

Songs like "Paranoid Freak" and "Gun Control" are ripe with frustration, making The Trews' third studio album their most political yet. However, exactly what statement they're trying to make by putting assless chaps on the cover remains elusive.



albumreview

Hot Chip

Made in the Dark
EMI

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Made in the Dark is British electronic-pop group Hot Chip's third studio album, and after all of the critical acclaim their sophomore release *The Warning* received in 2006, you'd think they would have a difficult time producing another album as successful and listener-friendly—but they have. Their surprising combination of drum machines, electric guitars, synthesizer, and knee-weakening British-accented

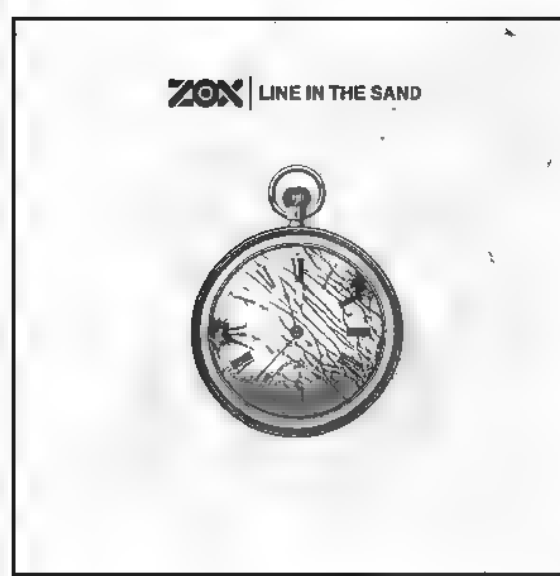
vocals offer a variety of sounds that far surpasses the average dance club track.

Although the first track, "Out at the Pictures," has a 70-second intro that's both cacophonous and unnecessary, the rest of the song's as solid as Chuck Norris' abs. "Shake a Fist" offers percussive jungle beats and a guest voice appearance by Todd Rundgren. Even the track entitled "Don't Dance" ironically begs for the opposite action.

Several tracks use synthesized organ, but it comes off far from church-like and much more sinful.

The seduction of Hot Chip is two-fold: they appeal to your emotions with the more romantic, slower ballad tracks and beckon to your primal side with the hip-grinding, pelvis-thrusting club-bangers.

"Wrestlers" reminds you that love is a battlefield with clever lyrics like, "It's me versus you in love / We'll tag team, double up, hit you in the sweet spot / The gloves are off." *Made in the Dark* oscillates comfortably between slow jams and more upbeat dance grooves, between loving lyrics and lustful moves. Hot Chip promises to bring the dance floor to a sweaty boil, while also allowing enough breaks with the slower tracks to catch your breath—and maybe someone's eye.



albumreview

Zox

Line In The Sand
Side One Dummy Records

DAVID JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

I'm prejudiced to like Zox because of one simple fact: violins are my kryptonite. I'll rabidly listen to any genre of music as long as it has those strings attached. But there's more to like with Zox than proper spiccato technique: the four-man Rhode Island group appeals to a wide audience of violinophiles and violin-phobes alike.

Zox can be described in a bunch of different genres: rock, folk, a little reggae, a touch of punk. They're diverse,

if nothing else, and their third album, *Line In The Sand*, represents this with a bevy of styles and songs to choose from. The aforementioned violin from Spencer Swain is noticeable in practically every number and never fails to impress. The jaw-dropping string acrobatics on "7th Avenue Prophet" transform a song that would ordinarily be average due to the unintelligible lyrics. I'll still listen to it due to my aforementioned fiddle fetish, but others might not find it as lasting.

Their music works best when the word "electric" is placed before everything: electric guitar, electric violin, electric percussion—and pretty electric vocals, to be honest. The group effortlessly manages to use their own voices as instruments too, which is good because the lyrics fall squarely into the "not quite as clever as they'd like you to think" category.

Each of the eleven tracks on the album is very listenable and enjoyable, which is a feat unto itself. Zox shines most, however, in songs like "Goodnight" and "The Wait (part II)," when they slow down, strip away the eclectic electrics, and just make music that sounds nice. They'd probably do a lot better for themselves were they to just settle themselves into a quieter niche like this one, but perhaps they're happy appealing to the violinophile market. God knows we're passionate enough.

Hockey Bears hope to live up to Alberta legacy

Team's long history of success on the ice adds pressure and motivation as they lace up against Manitoba in Canada West playoffs

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

When the Bears take to the ice in Clare Drake Arena on Friday night against the Manitoba Bisons in the first game of their best-of-three playoff series, they'll be surrounded by the evidence of Alberta's legacy.

The Golden Bears (21-5-2 in the regular season) have won six of the past seven Canada West championships (46 overall) and two of the last three national titles (twelve of those in all). Most of those banners are on display in the Drake, reminding the current Bears squad of what they're playing for—and what standards they're trying to live up to—as they take on Manitoba (13-13-2).

"Anytime you step on the ice here, you've just got to look up and you see the banners that wrap all the way around the rink," first-year Alberta left winger Eric Hunter said.

"I think when you come into the playoffs and step onto the ice, you're not just playing for you; you're playing for the Bears. It's a bit of history out there, and you feel like if you don't get it done and you don't win, you're letting the organization down. It's added pressure, but then it's also added motivation. You see all those banners and step up."

The Bears could need all the extra boost that they can get this week as they face the Bisons. In many ways, the Herd is an unknown quantity to the Bears. The teams met several



FILE PHOTO: TARASTIEGLITZ

NOT QUITE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH The Bears will be relying on their top lines, including Tim Krymusa (white) to score like this against the Bisons this weekend.

times in the regular season this year, but those meetings may not be much help in predicting how the game will go. Their first series, which was split, was way back in October, and though Alberta won 8-1 and 6-1 the next time they met, Manitoba had just come off of an arduous non-conference tournament and weren't at their best.

Alberta head coach Eric Thurston thinks that Manitoba's recent series against UBC is a better indication of what his team is going to have to deal

with this weekend.

"I had a chance go to Winnipeg and watch the University of Manitoba play UBC, and they played very well," he said. "They really took it to them; they had very good goaltending; their defence did a good job moving the puck, so it's going to be a really tough test."

"We know Manitoba just came out of a good series, and we know they're playing as good as they can," Hunter said. "We saw what they did to UBC;

we thought that was going to be a tough battle for them, and they ended up sweeping."

Alberta finished the season at the top of the conference, so they had a bye through the first round of playoffs. They've used the time to ensure that all of their basics are in place to counter the threat that Manitoba poses.

"We've just got to work hard and come focused and ready to play," Bears defenceman Harlan Anderson said. "Having two weeks off,

sometimes you start a little slow, so we've got to be prepared to maybe weather their storm to start. I think it's just a matter of us playing our game and sticking to it."

"We worked all year to get that bye week, and we earned it against Saskatchewan by finishing first," Hunter added. "We've had two weeks now to prepare; we're in shape, we've been skating for two hard weeks, and we're just ready to get going and start playing."

Bears and Pandas try for matching golds at nationals

Both of Alberta's volleyball teams are looking for the country's highest honours as they take on familiar foes at CIS championships

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Alberta's men's and women's volleyball teams are on the other side of the country this weekend, competing in their respective national championships, and though they're both gunning for CIS gold after finishing at the top of Canada West, the two teams have different agendas.

The defending national champion Pandas finished the regular season 14-6 and in fifth spot, but took down higher-placed teams like UBC and Manitoba on their way to their second straight Canada West title.

The Bears, on the other hand, went 18-2 in the regular season, never letting go of their number-one spot on the national rankings. But instead of going into Laval this weekend as reigning champions like the Pandas are doing at the University of New Brunswick, the Bears will be looking to prove themselves. The Bears have made the gold-medal match in each of the past four years, but have lost in three of them, including a heartbreaking 3-2 game to Winnipeg last season.

"Obviously when you don't win a championship when you're that close, it's something that you think about all the time," Bears head coach Terry Danyluk said. "I think some of that exists for sure, and I think they'd love to have another opportunity at that game. The most important thing is that we don't look too far ahead. In order to

get the chance to do that, they have to get by round one and round two."

Though there will be teams at both tournaments from across the country, the Bears and Pandas will each see a lot of familiar faces across the net. Half of the eight teams playing in Laval this weekend are from this conference, while the Pandas are one of three Canada West teams competing for the women's trophy. Though Canada West teams are split between two pools in both cases, chances are high that both Alberta teams will face at least one of their conference rivals.

"It's nice playing someone that you've played before and seeing some familiar faces," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "It's always challenging when you're playing someone that you don't really know because then you're having to make adjustments on the fly, but I think we're good at that too."

In addition to their fellow Western teams, Alberta's athletes will match up against teams they've seen in previous championships. The Pandas' first game, for instance, will be against Saint Mary's—they met last year in the first round as well.

"In either scenario, you just make the best of it. If you haven't gotten your team prepared by the time you're here, you haven't got a chance," Eisler said. "All we know is what our team is going to do, and we're going to play well and play really well under pressure, and then the challenge is for [the other team] to be able to match that."

In the end, the opponents don't matter to them; what it comes down to is what the Pandas and Bears can bring to the court, both mentally and physically.

"We've trained for almost eight months now, and I think the big thing is that they do a really good job of preparing to play, and when it comes down to it, it's their execution, how mentally focused they are when matches come up one at a time. I think that's probably the key," Danyluk said.

"Psychologically, you have got to be able to keep your game together," Eisler agreed. "But a lot of it's physical—being able to put three really good matches together in a row. There is that physical component that I think gets overlooked at a championship. It's been a long season, and physically, you can really build and peak for this competition."

Both Alberta's teams are fit and focused going into the weekend, their coaches say. They also have the advantage of playoff experience.

"I think we've been seeing the advantage [of experience] over the past two weeks," Eisler said. "This is when you draw on that experience and the toughness—the type of volleyball that I think is capable of winning championships."

The Bears' first game will be against the Universite de Montreal on Thursday at 6pm EST, while the Pandas face Saint Mary's Thursday at 1pm AST. Men's games will be broadcast through www.cisport.ca.



PÉTEYEE

TEAR DOWN THIS WALL The Bears and Thunderbirds are two of the four Canada West teams representing this conference at nationals this weekend.

Hoops Pandas just one win away from nationals

Alberta squad wants a Canada West banner, but its ultimate goal is to silence critics by earning spot at the CIS championships again

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

There's only one win standing between the Pandas basketball team and a spot at nationals, but the teams guarding those games have all beaten Alberta in the regular season this year. The Pandas will be in Vancouver for the Canada West finals, and they're after a medal—and a trip to nationals—against Simon Fraser, UBC, and Regina.

The Pandas, who finished the regular season 17-5, will be facing UBC in their first game on Friday night. It was at the T-Birds' hands that Alberta suffered their worst loss of the season on 1 February, falling 86-49 on the road. But the Pandas are determined to put on a better showing this time.

"Every team lays an egg every year, and that was ours, and it's not going to happen again," fourth-year Pandas forward Trish Ariss said. "UBC needs to be looking over their shoulders because we're coming for them, and we aren't going to play the way we played against them last time. I'm really excited because I know we are just as good as them."

"It will be a totally different game," forward Kristin Jarock agreed. "I think we learned a lot from that game, and I think [this] is going to be a good one."

Alberta head coach Scott Edwards is optimistic about his team's chances as well, but he isn't taking UBC lightly.

"They've got three outstanding fifth-year players who aren't going to settle for not getting to nationals," he said. "I expect them to play their best basketball, and we've got to get over the hump we had against them last time and come back strong and go down there expecting to win."

"I know we deserve to be there, but what we do with that opportunity when we get there is up to the kids and how much we want to play, how consistently they want to shoot the basketball, and how consistent our

defensive effort's going to be."

The Pandas are coming right off a gruelling Central Division series against the Saskatchewan Huskies. Alberta won in three games, but exposed both their strengths and weaknesses as a team.

As is usually the case when they're playing well, the Pandas were able to distribute their scoring between several players. Each night had nine players putting points on the board.

"[Edwards] likes to call it 'scoring by committee,' and that's one of our strengths," Ariss said. "We're harder to stop when everybody's scoring, and it's not one person that a team is looking to shut down; it's everybody that they're going to have to shut down in order to beat us."

"UBC needs to be looking over their shoulders because we're coming for them, and we aren't going to play the way we played against them last time."

TRISH ARISS
PANDAS FORWARD

On the other hand, on both Friday and Saturday of that series, the Pandas had trouble keeping their drive up through 40 minutes. They remedied that on Sunday, and also reminded themselves that, in order to win, it's essential they shoot and rebound successfully.

"The games we've lost this year have been ones where we've shot the ball poorly—in the 20s—so we can't have another game like that in the Canada West finals, or we're not going to make it through to Saskatchewan," Edwards said.

"[We'll need] to play the way we did on Sunday—just tough," Jarock

agreed. "We didn't let anybody push us around, we set the tempo, we were the first on loose balls, and that was the deciding factor. We finally played a fourth quarter and scored."

If the Pandas can win on Friday night, their most likely opponent in the gold medal game will be SFU, the team that beat them in last year's CIS final. The Clan, who went 22-1 in the regular season and didn't once relinquish their position at the top of the CIS rankings, also prevailed against the Pandas in Edmonton in January, though by a narrower 75-73 margin.

"We're going to go out and beat UBC, and I think the entire country is expecting SFU to beat Regina, but who knows in that game," Ariss said. "It doesn't really matter to us who we play because we're going to give it our best in the gold medal match, but if it's SFU, all the better because we want another shot at them anyway."

The Pandas' silver-medal win last year surprised a lot of people—like this year, they finished the regular season in the fourth spot on the national top-ten list—and many on the Alberta squad feel that they're still being undervalued as a team. This playoff season, they're out to show that last year's run wasn't just luck.

"People seem to think U of A's been in the shadows for the past few years and last year was a fluke, and we're out to prove that it wasn't, that we're actually a force to be reckoned with," Ariss said. "I don't know why people don't expect much from us because we've proven time and again that we deserve to compete in this conference."

"Every one of the teams we're going up against are ones who beat us in conference play, so I certainly think we're the underdogs," Edwards said. "But it's always good to have a little something that you're working towards to get yourself fired up to play."

The top three teams at the end of the weekend will head to Saskatchewan to represent Canada West at nationals.



PETEYEE

TIP-TOP SHAPE Forward Kristin Jarock and her fellow Pandas are going to focus on shooting and rebounding this weekend in the Canada West Final Four.

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Bears' man of Steele gets Canada West recognition

Player of the Year has led Alberta team to Calgary for conference Final Four

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Bears basketball team is headed to the Canada West Final Four, and they have Alex Steele to thank for it. The efforts of the fifth-year Bears guard, who was just named conference MVP, have helped the Bears get within one win of a spot in the national championships.

Alberta earned the wild card spot into the Final Four after finishing the regular season 16-6 and beating the Saskatchewan Huskies in the first round of the playoffs before losing to Calgary this past weekend. They'll play the Brandon Bobcats (20-2 in the regular season) on Friday night, and the winner of that game will advance to nationals as well play for conference gold on Saturday.

The highest the Bears were able to climb in the national top ten this season was ninth, in the second week of January, while Brandon finished the year in second place. That said, the Bears are one of only three Canada West teams to have beaten the 'Cats in conference play this year.

Alberta beat Brandon 106-93 in Edmonton on 17 November (Victoria prevailed against Brandon earlier this term, while Regina was able to take a game away from them in their divisional playoffs series this past weekend). The Bears also managed to beat them in pre-season play, and head coach Don Horwood—who was named 2008 Canada West Coach of the Year—feels confident going into the weekend.

"Obviously we feel that we have a chance to beat Brandon; we've beaten them twice this year. This is a different scenario, so we know it's going to be very tough, but, hey, two winners Friday night go to nationals," Horwood said. "If somebody had said in September, 'You're going to be playing in that game,' that's all you could hope for. And that's where we are."

It's unlikely that many people outside the Bears organization would have made such a prediction at the beginning of the year. They haven't attended nationals since 2004/05, and they've been overshadowed by big-name teams like Calgary and Brandon in Canada West this year despite beating both them and UBC—the fourth team that will be there this weekend—during the season.

Horwood never doubted that his team had the potential to come this far, however.

"I thought we had enough talent," he said. "I didn't know if we'd compete hard enough; I didn't know if we had the character, but throughout the year, the guys have shown that. I thought it was a little lacking last week against Calgary, but I think we've shown all year that we have enough character to go down there and compete to win on Friday night."

"We know they're all good, but we think we're just as good as most of those teams if not better. We have no reason not to think that we can beat any team in Canada West this year," Steele agreed.

This past weekend, in which the Bears lost 87-78 and a shocking 90-66 to their division rivals, was almost certainly their worst showing of the year, but the Bears know what



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

HUNGRY FOR BASKET Newly-minted Canada West Player of the Year Alex Steele (11) went for the basket during a Bears' playoff game versus the Huskies.

they have to change to keep the losing from becoming a trend.

"We have to rebound really well. If we don't out-rebound them, we have to be able to rebound with them, so that's a real key for us," Horwood said.

"Last weekend, Calgary killed us on the boards. They were getting second and third shots, and we were having to foul them, and they were making their free throws. As long as a team keeps doing that to you, it's pretty hard to beat them."

Alberta's single best weapon against their Canada West competition, however, will continue to be Steele. The guard has been the nucleus of the team's scoring this year, propelling Alberta through injuries and slumps—efforts for which he was recognized by this week's award.

Steele was fifth in Canada West scoring, second in free throw percentage, fourth in steals, and sixth in assists. In January against Trinity Western, he scored a career-high 40 points.

"It feels good, but a trip to nationals would feel even better," Steele said. "I've worked hard over the years, and to have something like this now is kind of special. In that respect, it's great. But going to nationals—I've never been there—is the most important thing."

"It's well-deserved," Horwood said of the award. "In September, of all the teams that you're talking about, which teams would you have expected to be in the Final Four? We probably weren't one of them. Calgary was, Brandon was, UBC was, and then it was wide open. We're here because of Alex."

The Bears will play Brandon on Friday at 5pm, and then will advance to either the bronze medal game at 5pm Saturday or the gold-medal match at 7pm at the Jack Simpson Gym in Calgary. For those not interested in jumping on a Greyhound to catch the games, they'll be webcast on www.nutv.ca/streaming.

Stealing the hardcourt hardware

Alex Steele, a transfer from Grant MacEwan in his third season with the Bears was recognized by Canada West's coaches for his stellar 2007/08 season. Check it.

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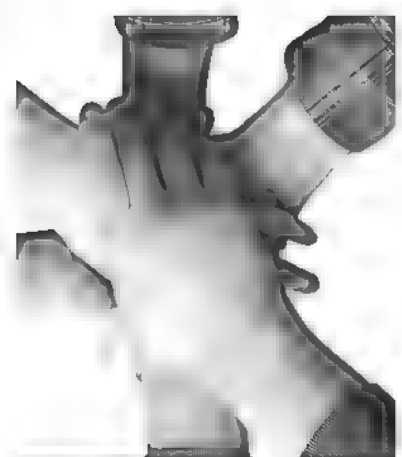
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Monday's NHL trade deadline moves bore the pants off of us

SPORTS
STAFFGroup
Commentary

With so much money—not to mention playoff hopes—on the line, you'd think that the NHL trading frenzy that precedes the deadline would be really exciting. This year, however, big deals were few and far between.

Mike Kendrick

I didn't expect much out of this year's trade season, and looking at the results of Tuesday's trading block madness, it would seem that the league lived up to my expectations perfectly.

While I anticipated that Toronto would make a few big moves after finally canning their former buffoon of a GM, John Ferguson Jr, all they really ended up with was a few extra draft picks at the expense of liquidating their

roster's trash talent. Credit to the franchise for looking towards the future, but it's not much of a vote of confidence towards an aging Mats Sundin, who's pledged his loyalty to the Leafs for the few years he's got left in his tank.

Earlier in the trade season, Alberta's teams only managed a combined two moves. Calgary hardly needs the extra defence they grabbed for a third-round pick, and Dick Tarnstrom might as well have gone to waivers for the impact he's left with the Oil this year. Yet poor Rollie the Goalie finds himself stuffed into the endless rotation of second-string goaltenders that's been previously occupied by such superstars as Ty Conklin and Jussi Markanen. And don't tell me that the Flames are *really* going to rely on Cujo when Mikka Kiprusoff breaks his hip in the Western Conference final. If he wasn't good enough for anything more than third on the 2002 Olympic team, I can't see that much has changed for the better since then.

All in all, I'm less than impressed with the 2008 trades. Where past years have delivered an exciting market of

hubbub and activity, for the most part, this year only gave us a few low-key moves with one or two big names thrown into the mix.

Matt Pretty

The biggest blockbuster this year was definitely the Marian Hossa trade. Atlanta GM Don Waddell swapped Hossa and low-line forward Pascal Dupuis for four players 25 or younger, two of whom—forwards Colby Armstrong and Erik Christensen—can step right on to Atlanta's roster and make an impact.

Highly touted prospect Angelo Esposito also heads to Atlanta. A steal of a draft choice at 20th overall in the 2007 entry draft, he should make the NHL in the near future and will provide a capable secondary scoring presence for sniper Ilya Kovalchuk. The Thrashers also get a first-round pick in this year's entry draft—widely considered one of the deepest in recent memory. Considering Atlanta might have lost Hossa in exchange for nothing come July first, Waddell did a great

job solidifying Atlanta's future by trading Hossa while he still had value.

Don't think Pittsburgh got fleeced in this deal, though—Hossa will add more scoring punch to a potent Pittsburgh lineup that already includes skilled players such as Evgeni Malkin and the injured Sidney Crosby, and their power play ought to be especially lethal now. If Hossa re-signs with Pittsburgh after this season, the Penguins will get even more out of this deal.

As it is, both teams benefited from this trade—Atlanta secured their future, and Pittsburgh gained even more offence for their 2008 playoff run.

Nick Frost

As they approached the 2008 version of the NHL's trade deadline, the Montreal Canadiens sat a mere four points out of first place in an extremely close Eastern Conference horse race. GM Bob Gainey had stated that the Habs were going to be buyers and that he was going to do everything in his power to bring a top-six forward to *la belle province* to help out the likes

of Saku Koivu and Alexei Kovalev for the Canadiens' upcoming postseason run. For weeks, we had heard rumblings that the Habs might be acquiring Marian Hossa or Alex Tanguay as potential centrepieces to help them shake off the shackles of mediocrity, lead them to the 25th Stanley Cup in franchise history, and return them to the upper echelon of the NHL.

But instead, they went and traded their starting goaltender.

The reaction to the news that Montreal had traded Cristobal Huet to the Washington Capitals by fans of the *Rouge et Bleu* was not anger, but utter confusion. Instead of riding a playoff-tested goaltender into post-season battle against a smorgasbord of strong opponents, they decided to rest their weight and playoff hopes on the shoulders of 20-year-old rookie Carey Price. Price has looked strong this season, given his inexperience, as the Habs' second goaltending option, but nothing he's done demonstrates to me that he was ready to lead the team to anything more than a first-round exit. That trade was a clear mistake.

ART & BOOKS

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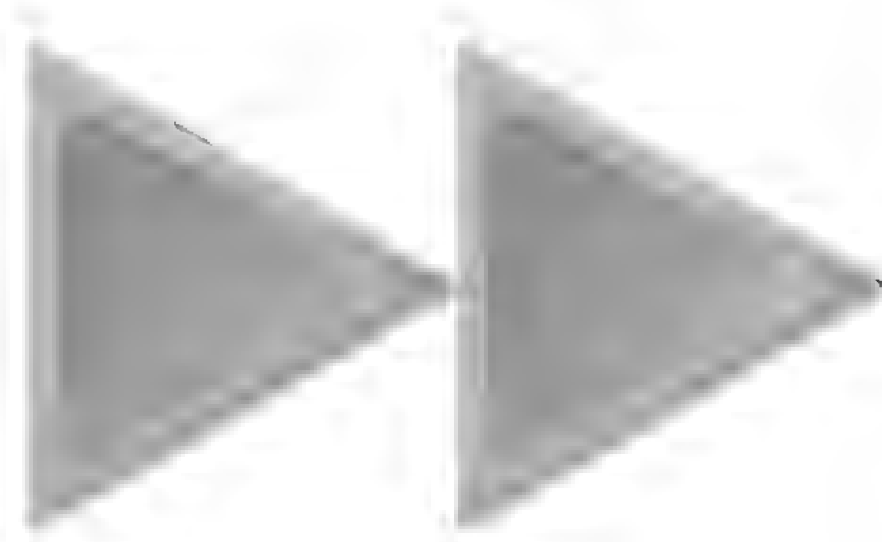
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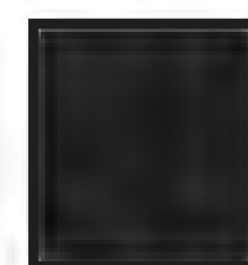


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astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

You know what I love the most about Reading Week? No students equals no assignments to mark. We should have Reading Week every week. My personal highlights from the Week of Reading included not buying a house, my fabulous birthday party, and being too fat for bikinis. I live a full life.

I want to say a huge thank-you to everyone who came to the campus

FABservatory on 20 February to watch the lunar eclipse. The turnout was massive, and we had clear skies for the entire event. Also visible that night were many satellites, Mars, Saturn, and adorable little kids excited about astronomy. It couldn't have been better.

If you like to get up super early, you have the opportunity to see three very different planets this week. Head outside around 6:45am and look towards the southeast. The bright planet higher in the southeast is Jupiter, the

largest gas giant. The other two planets much lower in the sky and to the left of Jupiter are Mercury (higher) and Venus (lower). You'll know they're planets because they don't twinkle like the stars do.

Oh, and the FABservatory is going to be open every Thursday (weather-permitting) from 8-9pm starting next week.

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.

Seeing a pattern here? Repetition creates an eye-catching structure within a photograph. It can also be used to single out one object that's not like the others. Try it sometime!



THE GATEWAY This whole 1910 thing is a pattern

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contributors

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Edmonton-Strathcona candidates battle for Pannu's seat

With former New Democrat leader Raj Pannu leaving political life, the race to take over his riding is on

JONATHAN TAVES
News Staff

Last Wednesday, the candidates for the provincial riding of Edmonton-Strathcona participated in a debate hosted by the Student's Union at the Myer Horowitz Theater.

Progressive Conservative TJ Keil, Liberal Tim Vant, and the New Democratic Party's Rachel Notley attended the all-candidates' forum in hopes of winning the NDP stronghold of retiring former leader Raj Pannu. The candidates discussed the various measures of change their party would enact in the Legislature.

"The most pressing issue in this election is the need to effect change. That's what people need," Vant said. "We can talk, but without actually being able to act, it won't happen."

Notley further specified the type of change she believes the province needs.

"It's important you don't just vote for change for change's sake, but you vote for substantial change. Two years ago, the Liberals and the Tories voted together to give corporate Alberta a \$370-million tax cut. In so doing, they didn't put \$260 million in childcare. They didn't put \$400 million into public education. They didn't put \$100 million into student housing. Those kinds of decisions are made every day in Alberta, and we need to have a better way of making decisions," she said.

Keil, the Conservative hopeful, drew upon his youth as a strength in representing the University's riding.

"As part of the new generation of young Progressive Conservative leadership, I intend to be that change that everyone's looking for," he said. "I'm not here for the last 37 years; I'm here for the



TARA STIEGLITZ

STRATHCONA HOT SEAT PC candidate TJ Keil (left), Liberal Tim Vant, and NDP member Rachel Notley field questions.

next 37 years."

Postsecondary education was one of the most talked-about topics during the debate.

"A very important part of [the post-secondary] discussion relates [...] to the people who are not at university right now," Notley said. "Costs are far beyond what they can afford."

The NDP's proposition, Notley explained, would roll back tuition to 1999 levels—a reduction of 20 per cent—while Vant outlined the Liberal promise of a rollback 2001 levels, marking an average drop of \$1000. Keil, on the other hand, reiterated the PC strategy to reduce interest on student loans to the prime level.

All three of the candidates also emphasized environmental concerns, with Keil standing by his government's current plan.

"Included in the climate change plan are energy efficiency and green energy

production," he said. "Through technological development, [...] our greenhouse gas emissions will go down."

Notley stressed the importance of targeted action for environmental protection and supported halting tarsands development until its impact has been comprehensively reviewed.

"We face a tremendous challenge in Alberta," she said. "We must address the issue of the environment. We can't wait twelve years. We can't wait five years. It must be done now."

Vant repeatedly expressed his confidence in the comprehensive nature of his party's plan in addressing not just climate change, but affordable housing and other social issues.

"The Alberta Liberal Party is like a bird with a left wing and a right wing; we need both to be able to fly down the middle," Vant said, with both arms outstretched. "This plan is seven years of good, solid thinking. It will see this

province through a lot of good times and a lot of hard times, but always keeping people first."

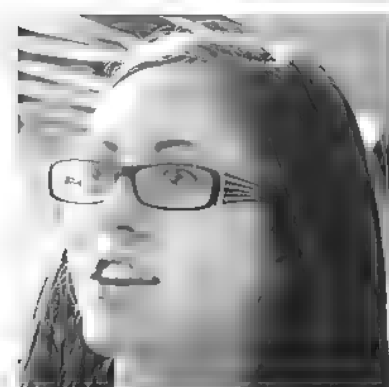
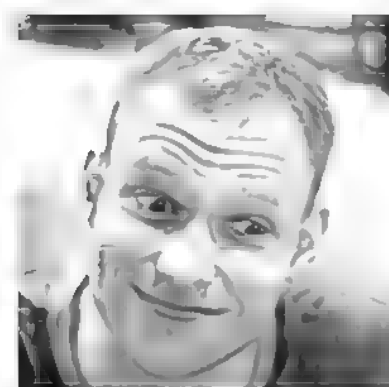
Although the candidates held differing opinions on a number of issues, they all agreed on the importance of democratic participation.

"There has never been a more exciting time to live in this province," Keil explained. "We have immense opportunity staring us right in the face to ensure long term prosperity."

"Voting is the best way to do that," Vant added. "Having these discussions and having critical thought is of huge importance so that we don't make mistakes we've made in the past."

"It's important to get as many people as possible out to vote, so when the results come in, we know it's actually something all Albertans wanted," Notley said. "We should be able to raise the standard for everyone in the province, not just a privileged few."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Kelsey Tanasiuk**Andrea Ruste**
Business II
at UWU, in
Edmonton for
Reading Week**Jason Wilson**
Engineering IV**Frederik Norberg**
Computer
Engineering
Masters**Steven Tannis**
Agriculture PhD

As you may be aware, this year's Oscars were the lowest-rated in TV history.

What were you doing on Sunday that was so important that you couldn't find time to watch the Oscars?

"Actually, watching the Oscars. They were pretty good. [...] Stewart] sucked; he just wasn't that good, but the Oscars were good."

"Laundry." [Why couldn't you watch the Oscars between loading and unloading the machines? Or were you doing laundry by hand?] "Why would anybody want to watch the Oscars?" [You're dodging the question.] "I was also doing homework."

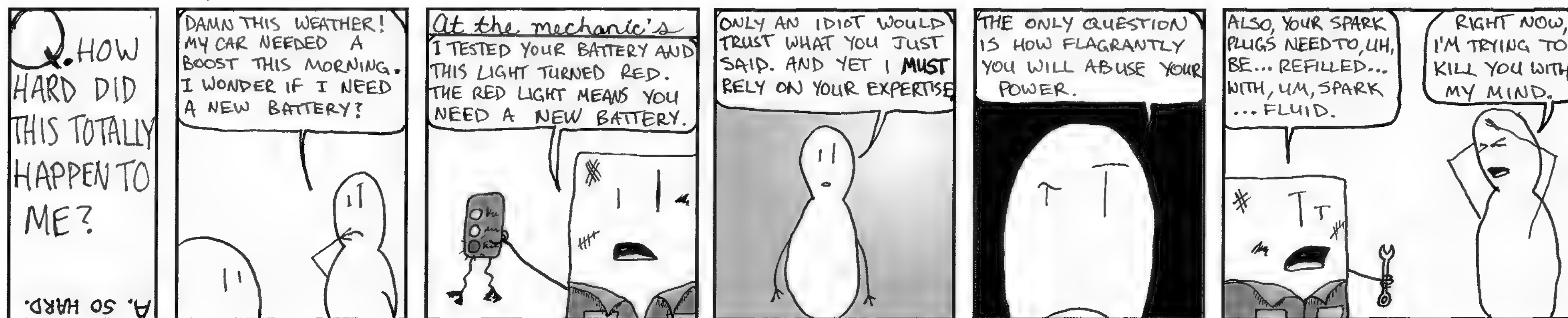
"I stopped playing the Oscars to play Rockband." [What songs?] "'Evenflow' by Pearl Jam."

"I believe I was at church." [All day?] "Teaching in the morning and attending a service in the evening." [What about the afternoon?] "I was doing homework."

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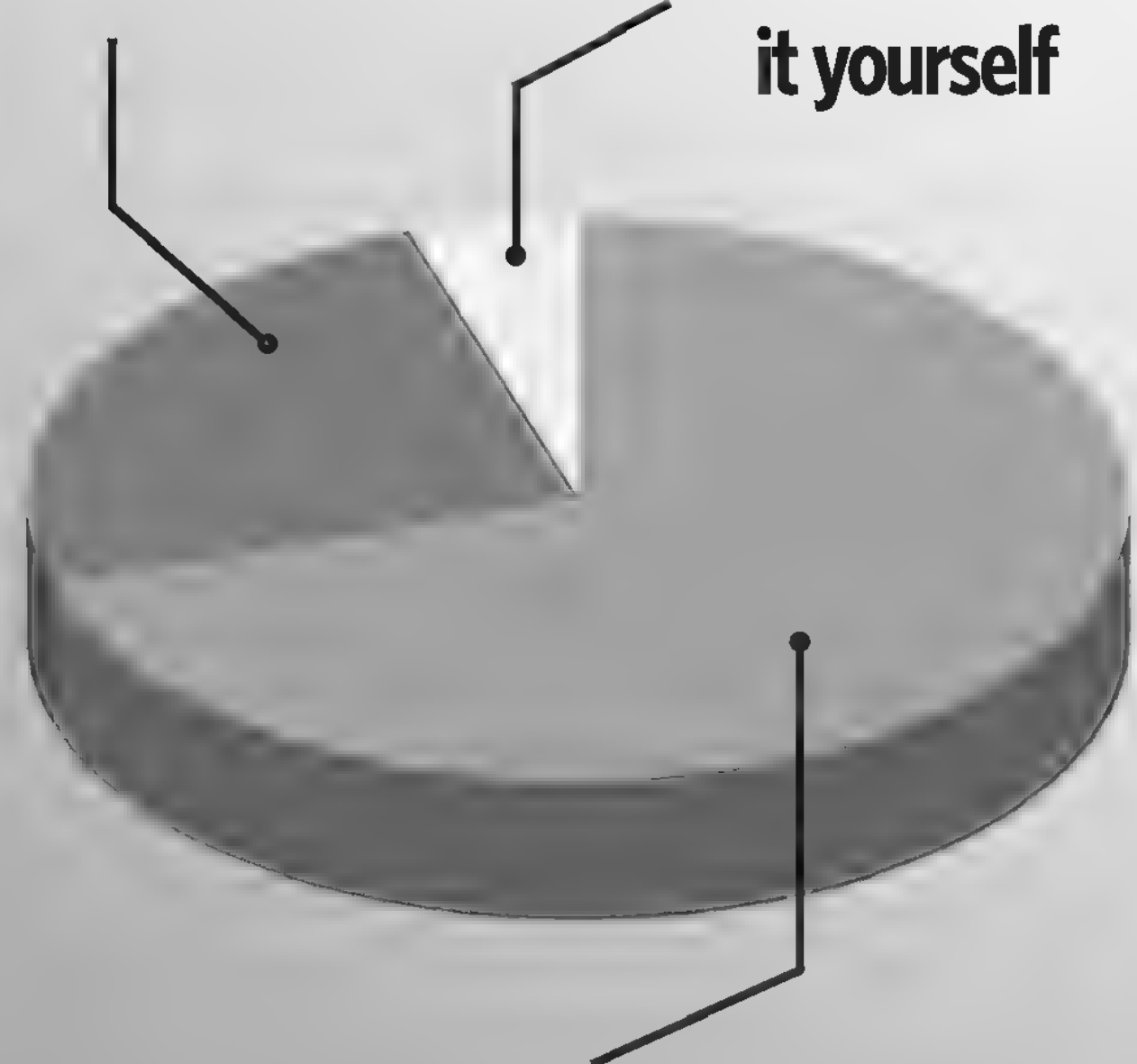


THE GATEWAY PRESENTS: DAVE COURNOYER—CONCERNED STUDENT by Mike Otto & Ryan Heise



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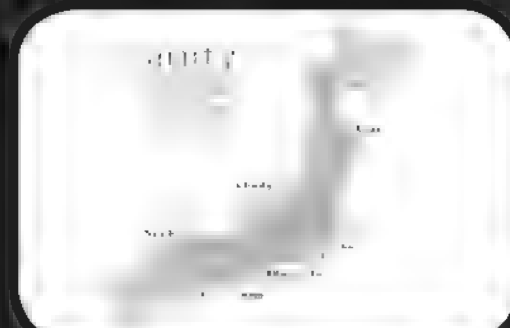


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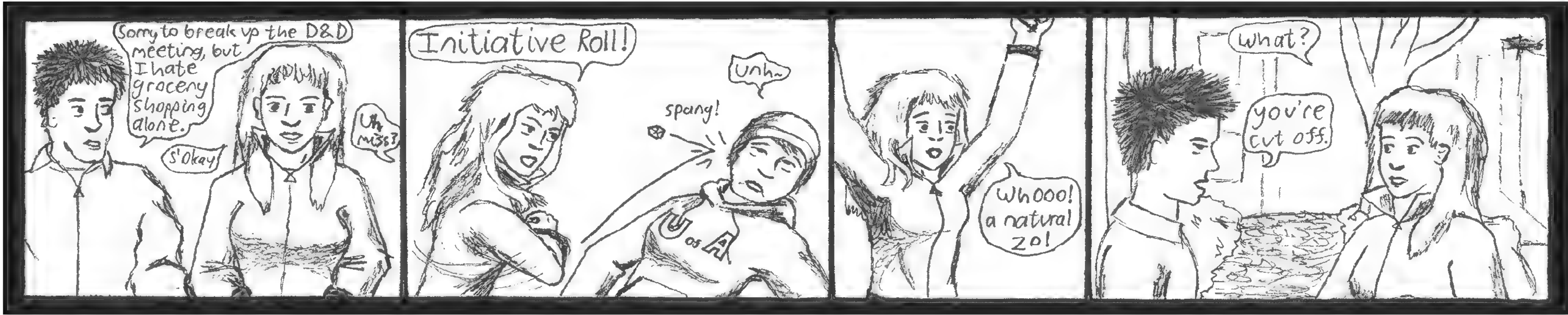
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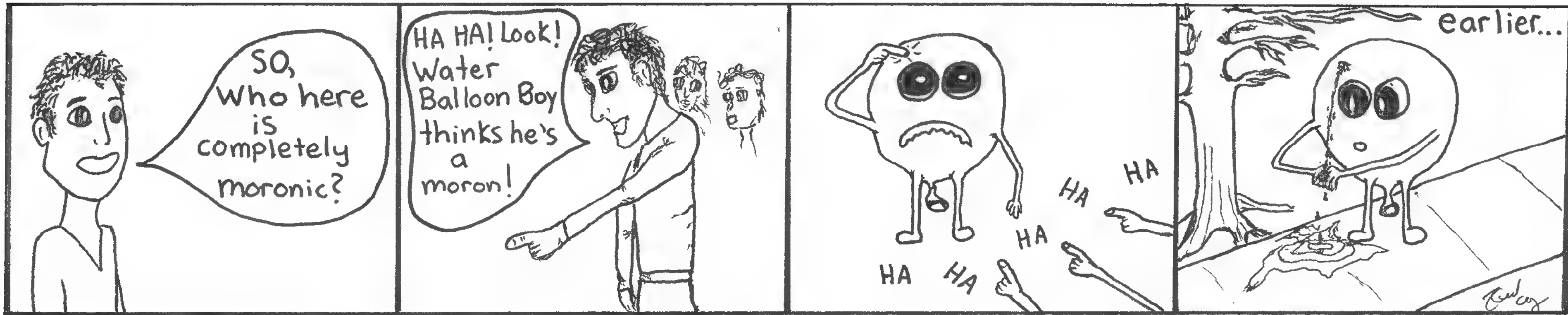
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RIVERVIEW ROUND-UP (L to R) Incumbent Kevin Taft, PC member Wendy Andrews, and NDP hopeful Erica Bullwinkle.

PSE and the environment key issues for Edmonton-Riverview candidates

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Monday night saw the Students' Union host their second and final all-candidates' forum at the Dinwoodie Lounge for the upcoming provincial election. Candidates from the riding of Edmonton-Riverview fielded questions from the moderator before taking queries from many of the audience members.

The riding, home to the University of Alberta, runs from the North Saskatchewan River south to Whitemud Drive, and from 109 street east to 163 street, and has five candidates: NDP hopeful Erica Bullwinkle, Wendy Andrews of the Progressive Conservatives, Cameron Wakefield of the Alberta Green Party, Wildrose Alliance member Kyle Van Hauwaert, and incumbent Liberal leader Kevin Taft.

While all of the candidates have varied backgrounds and political leanings, the two major issues that were brought up throughout the evening were postsecondary education and the environment.

"Our plan is to freeze tuition fees at 1999 levels, and we're also investing \$100 million on building affordable housing for students," Bullwinkle explained during her opening statements.

However, not all candidates offered such specifics.

"I would work to achieve the

highest-quality, accessible, affordable education system, with a balance of funding between operations and research," Andrews said.

Wakefield, who's currently a Science student at the University, stressed the importance of environmental issues and the presence of the Green Party, even though they have yet to send an MLA to the Legislature.

"My presence here on this stage means that [environmental issues] will be part of the election debate, and that's truly important for us," he explained.

During his opening comments, Liberal leader Kevin Taft focused on the need for a change of government in Alberta.

"The same party has governed Alberta since before I was an undergraduate. That's much too long—37 years," Taft stated. "The current party is out of gas, out of ideas, and needs to be replaced so we can have a new beginning."

Van Hauwaert echoed these sentiments about the PCs, adding that all of the other "parties are throwing a lot of money around and are trying to buy votes."

"Our politicians right now are throwing dollars at all kinds of things," he continued. "So I want some fiscal responsibility and some accountability with the various parties. That's what we're presenting with the Wildrose Alliance party."

During the moderator Q&As,

candidates fielded questions ranging from what they thought the biggest issues facing their constituents are to how large of a role they feel the government has in regulating markets.

One pointed question was how each candidate would create a different Alberta in 2012. While all of candidates answered along their ideological lines, Andrews surprised some audience members by stating that "by 2012, Alberta will be known worldwide as the leader of renewable, alternative energy sources."

An audience member created a bit of stir when they asked whether the candidates believed in the science surrounding human impact being the number-one cause of climate change. All of the candidates acknowledged this, save for the Andrews of the PC party, who argued that while humans have had an impact on Earth, climates have been changing for millions of years.

A comment that appealed to democratic sensibilities came during Wakefield's closing remarks.

"By you folks being here, you're showing that you're interested in the democratic process and are the start of what could be a change in government."

"I'm going to ask you to consider voting Green," he added. "But even if you don't want to vote Green, vote. But the vote is just the start of democracy; it's not the end point. Democracy is taking part everyday in the welfare of your province."

Centre will investigate mass atrocity crimes

KNIGHT • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"[The] Responsibility to Protect norm [...] basically states that if a state cannot or will not protect its own people, then the international community has a responsibility to intervene in order to protect those people from mass slaughter, from genocide, from crimes against humanity, from mass rapes, ethnic cleansing," Knight explained.

"[These are] all the things you saw happening in places like Rwanda, in Kenya, in Sierra Leone and Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Darfur right now."

The Centre will operate separate from the UN, Knight explained, so as to separate some of the sensitive activities from the workings of the office of the Secretary-General.

"It's arms length from the UN because of the nature of some of the activities," Knight said. "For example, there could be a watch-list, in which case we are sort of identifying countries which have refused to protect their own people."

The Global Centre has been endorsed by the UN General Assembly, and also counts Kofi Annan, Lloyd Axworthy, Romeo Dallaire, and Desmond Tutu as some of its patrons. Further to this, Knight emphasized the generous financial donations already pledged to the Centre from UN member states, non-governmental organizations, and individuals.

"This is not just a one-off kind of thing. The states that have supported this are indicating through their financial support that they're willing to go all-out in helping the new executive director advocate on behalf of this new norm," Knight said. "So I'm very appreciative of that."

Knight, whose past research interests have focused on children and armed conflict, also serves as a governor of the International Development Research Centre and is on the board of directors of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.

Overall, Knight hopes that his experience in New York will broaden his own areas of research, and will open

up a number of doors for students and faculty at the U of A.

"In a sense, for me, it's an advancement of my own personal research interests to be involved in something like this," Knight noted. "Also, I think it opens up a lot of doors and opportunities to work with the international community, to work with the Secretary-General's office, to work with members of the United Nations, ambassadors in New York, the list goes on."

"I'm hoping that this will be very good for the University as well. I hope it's very good for our graduate and PhD students who are working in this area [...] and for faculty members who have worked with me in the past on these types of issues," he said. "I hope I might be able to open up some doors for them to be somehow engaged beyond Edmonton, beyond Alberta, beyond Canada on these kinds of issues."

Knight will be undertaking a two-year leave of absence and sabbatical from the U of A during his work with the Centre.

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Regina Qu'Appelle
HEALTH REGION

Prez hopefuls aim for holistic approach to student politics

THE PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENTS' Union is responsible for representing students within the University as well as the community at large. They guide the overall policy and operational direction of the SU during their term in office.

Compiled by Cody Civiero

1 As SU president, how would you help students to combat rising tuition fees?

Dustin Miller: For five years, I've been attending the University. Our Students' Union has been operating as a student government, both within the executive and within the minds of the students. The Student's Union is an organization that requires the full interaction of three parts: a voice, a body, and a head. Our Students' Union has been ensured a voice by the hard work of the Students' Union of previous generations. Not only is the Students' Union a legally required organization on campus, [but] venues such as our seats on the Board of Governors and the open paths of communication we enjoy with all levels of government today ensure that our voice is heard.

However, the demands of that voice don't need to be listened to if that voice isn't supported by a united student body, and that is the largest problem our campus faces today. When our executives represent an absent body, their demands are reduced to appeals, and the government and the Board of Governors don't need to implement any of these ideas because the demands remain empty.

The third and most important aspect is the head: the Students' Union Executive. This is an area where our Students' Union could really use some strengthening. The Students' Union Executive is responsible for ensuring that the voice of the students is heard, responsible for uniting the student body and leading them to success

on those issues. As Students' Union president, I will be the leader with the vision to unite the voice and body of our Students' Union to effectively reform tuition policy in Alberta.

Janelle Morin: Affordability is a major issue for students, not just with tuition, but also with rising rent costs for students and with academic resource costs. We need to employ strategic advocacy to ensure that we are using our partnerships to effectively lobby the government and the University. We need to ensure that we are lobbying at all levels—with the provincial government but also at the federal and municipal levels. We also need to ensure that we aren't compromising our quality of education through this affordability.

Bobby Samuel: To combat tuition increases is to address the affordability of the postsecondary education. Tuition is the largest single cost that undergraduates will encounter during their postsecondary education, and it makes sense, in order to address affordability, to reduce tuition. I feel that education is a public good worthy of investment from the government of Alberta, and it stimulates the economy and creates a stronger Alberta. However, we also have to realize that, as it stands right now, we've seen tuition increases occur for the last 17 years, and one of the things that I really want to do is allocate a certain percentage of that tuition increase to needs-based bursaries. I think if we were to restore funding to these bursaries—which have been under-funded in recent years—that it would increase the affordability of education and therefore minimize the impact that a tuition increase would have.

Sheldon Tibbo: Tuition actually hasn't gone up. If you look at your Beartracks and look at your tax receipts, from

2004 to now it's gone up \$10. So, I'm not sure where we are getting the impression that tuition is rising from, but it is still important to advocate for lower tuition. At the same time, we have to understand why it is being raised, which is a more important question to ask.

2 Besides tuition, what is the most important issue currently affecting students, and how would you address it?

Miller: The most important issue that the campus faces is community. We see examples of that in the Powerplant and the recent developments with the Lister Hall Students' Association. As a result of the absence of community on campus, many students are disinterested in some of the services we are providing.

The Powerplant is a great example of this: as the quality of the service and the quality of the food degraded over the course of the Powerplant's lifetime, students became incredibly disinterested in using that facility, and with an absence of community on campus, there's no motivation for students to be actively engaging with the facilities of the Students' Union.

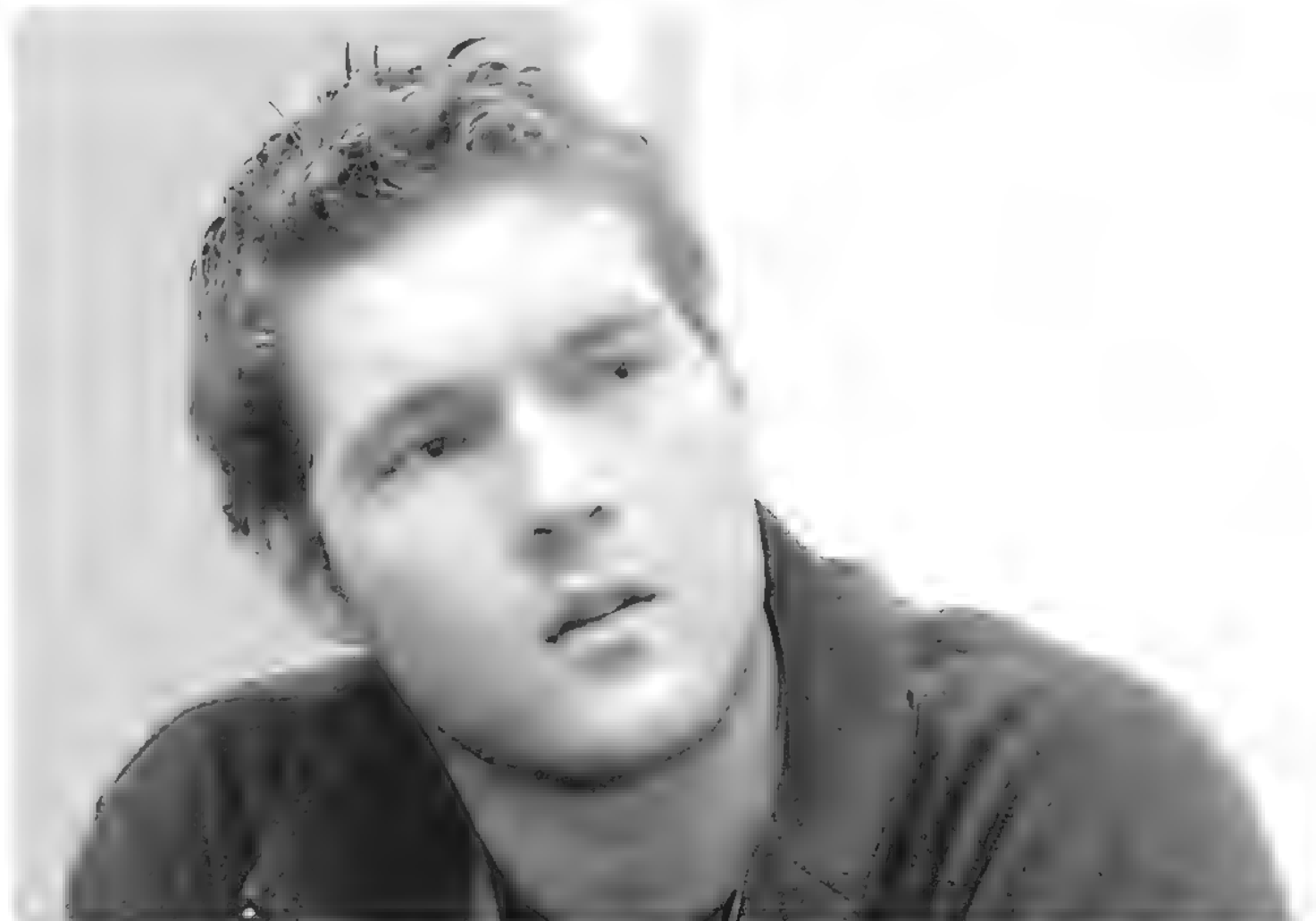
I bring up the recent developments with LHSA because I think that Lister is a good example of community for the campus. They have a lot of incredibly interactive programs that the students there are interested in and participate in, and, as such, when they need to rally around a cause, they have proven themselves to be equal to the task. When Residence Services decided to take their voting procedures away from them, they stood up against that decision. We need to find a way to expand on the community of Lister Hall so that the rest of the campus has that kind of unity, and as a result, we're going to see services like the Powerplant be more successful in the future.

"We need to employ strategic advocacy to ensure that we are using our partnerships to effectively lobby the government and the University."

JANELLE MORIN

"I'd say that the primary issue for students now is the Students' Union itself and how we don't actually portray our ideas or what we do."

SHELDON TIBBO





MIKE OTTO

HAND GESTURES EQUAL VOTES (L to R) Presidential candidates Janelle Morin, Bobby Samuel, Sheldon Tibbo, and Dustin Miller field questions at Monday night's all-candidates' forum at Lister hall.

Morin: There are two important issues facing students: one is the general cost of an education, not just the tuition cost. That includes rent increases, that includes general rent if you are a student outside of the residences, that includes academic material costs, and we need to employ strategic advocacy to meet these needs. That advocacy has to be focused at all levels of government and has to be a consistent message put forward by the Students' Union, but also works to ensure goals that are mutually beneficial with our partners and allies. The second most important thing that our students are facing is a disengagement from campus. We need to combat that by providing students with the space, the resources, and the communication that they need to effectively engage in their education and in their extracurricular activities.

Samuel: The second-largest issue facing undergraduates at the University of Alberta is the quality of postsecondary education. As it stands right now, we're seeing jurisdictions in other nations such as the United Kingdom and Australia outline key performance indicators and outline minimizations in terms of the quality, especially with emphasis on teaching at the university. Although our university has two purposes—research and teaching—we are research-intensive and not teaching-intensive. One of the things that I want to do is to restore that balance and ensure that teaching is weighted equally

with research, and one of my plans is to offer financial incentives for professors to take teaching seminars so that they are able to get the education that they need so that undergraduates are able to get the quality of education that they need.

Tibbo: I'd say that the primary issue for students now is the Students' Union itself and how we don't actually portray our ideas or what we do. The students will see candidates during election time, and then that's it. That's the primary reason why students don't vote. They have no idea what we do, and they think that we're useless seats to be filled, which I think we need to convey that it is not.

3 What qualifications enable you to be an effective student advocate?

Miller: The one-word answer to that is "leadership." I have an aggressive and diversified campaign developed to help unite our student body. That campaign is going to require encouraging students to choose activism as a way to enhance their university experience and as a means of supporting their Students' Union. First and foremost, I want to hold a series of rallies and protests focused on reforming tuition policy in Alberta. These protests would be held once a month for every month when students aren't writing finals. This allows myself, as president, to be much more accessible and visible to the students on

campus. For the five years I've been here as a student at the University of Alberta, I've watched the Students' Union struggle to make changes with the government without the support of the student body, and as a student, I am deeply connected to the issues because I've been living them. I haven't been formed into the kind of bureaucrat that the lack of student support requires within the Students' Union Executive, and as such, I intend to focus my intentions on gathering support from the students for the students.

Morin: As the current director of Student Group Services, I work with over 350 student groups, and I have a great deal of past leadership experience, including an executive position with the Lister Hall Students' Association. These positions have given me the most insight into student needs and concerns. I also have the most effective experience dealing with the University and advocating on behalf of students, as evidenced by my work on the rent increase debates and on the food issues on campus.

Samuel: I am a former president of the University of Alberta Science Undergraduates' Society. During that time, one of the things I really took pride in is being an academic advocate and actually advocating for students in terms of the quality of their education. I spent a year as Vice-President (Academic), and I've seen my initiatives grow and become

successful. Things such as the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials, where we had discussions with the publishers, bookstores, and student associations from across the nation to discuss how we can reduce textbook costs, from advocating to the University to restore the quality of teaching, especially with regards to student evaluations to ensure that they properly measure teaching with community service learning and seeing that program bridge more with the Students' Union and having Students' Union services partner with community service center.

I have a strong history of leadership in the Students' Union, especially as Vice-President (Academic), and I think this experience of being a prior executive really will help me to hit the ground running when May 1st comes around so that we don't spend time on the learning curve, but we spend time doing what matters most, and that is actually getting results for students.

Tibbo: Even though I haven't been involved in the Students' Union or other political organization, I know there are a lot of things in the University that are very inappropriate. For example, a friend of mine's mom died, and she actually had to pay \$50 for deferred exams, which, to me, is absolutely disgusting. In terms of qualifications, I think you just need good morals, and a good sense of right and wrong, and I think I have that.

4 Are there any specific SU services or business that you think are underperforming and need to be reformed in some way?

Miller: Personally, I believe that the Powerplant is underperforming. It was underperforming as a bar due to poor management. As I said before, the degradation of the quality of service and the quality of the food that was there made it a place that wasn't appealing to go to. I like the direction that the Students' Union has taken the Powerplant in, now that students are uninterested in using it as a bar. I would like to see that facility more accessible as a study space for students and especially as a space that would be affordable for student groups on campus. As it stands, the Students' Union doesn't offer enough affordable space for students groups to hold events, especially when they have been newly formed. With a small budget and not a very large subscription, student groups have a hard time acquiring space in order to gain the momentum that their group requires.

Morin: I think that the Powerplant as a venue has been underutilized. We need to ensure students are able to effectively use it by expanding Dewey's and merging it with CUE, by provided usable student study space, and by making it a bookable venue for student initiatives. We also

need to ensure that the University is shouldering its share of the financial responsibility for services that the Students' Union is currently providing. A good example is our Student Group Services, where the University is providing less monetary and spatial support than it needs to be providing, and ECOS, where we have an excellent opportunity to work with the University to pursue a more environmentally sustainable campus.

Samuel: One of the services that has a large amount of untapped potential is student groups. Student groups contribute a lot to facilitating student life. Most of the students whom I come into regular contact with are involved with one or more student groups. I think there is a large amount of untapped potential there in order to revive our student life on campus and engage students on our campus in terms of making campus a lot more fun. By engaging through student groups, we can create a vibrant life, and I feel that we can offer student groups more support through opening up the advocacy, marketing, and accounting departments to get the infrastructure and support that they need in order to accomplish their goals. The second thing will be to actually increase the amount of funds that we give to student groups through granting process and removing those restrictions so that student groups are able to have the freedom to spend that money in order to accomplish their goals.

Sheldon Tibbo: One of my ideas is a Students' Union audit, which basically ensures that if services are not being utilized properly, they will go. It sounds cruel, but if a service isn't being used and is wasting time and money, why have it? If people don't know about it, that is another part of the problem, and I think we should put that information out there.

5 How would you survive a zombie apocalypse?

Miller: I would immediately contact my brothers and friends and we would get in my brother's truck, gather as many weapons as we can, and bunker down in our small cabin. That is the question that everyone considers. Every guy I know has a zombie plan. Find whoever is alive, find whatever weapons are available, and fight for survival.

Morin: I wouldn't take any chances. I would lure them to Lister and let the food finish them off.

Samuel: Basically, I would hole myself up in a bar, and hopefully, none of them would find me.

Tibbo: That's a tough one; I've never really experienced that before. I think I'd follow the movie *28 Weeks Later* and just run from the zombies and blast them with shotguns.

"Tuition is the largest single cost that undergraduates will encounter during their postsecondary education, and it makes sense, in order to address affordability, to reduce tuition."

BOBBY SAMUEL



PHOTOS BY PETE YEE

"When our executives represent an absent body, their demands are reduced to appeals, and the government and the Board of Governors don't need to implement any of these ideas because the demands remain empty."

DUSTIN MILLER



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Quality of instruction the focus for VP (Academic)

The two-candidate race for this vice-president position sees Bryant Lukes make a second run for the job against opponent John Braga

THE PORTFOLIO FOR THE VP (ACADEMIC) includes all aspects of student life that deal with academic endeavours. This includes advocating for the cost of instructional materials, as well as the quality of teaching at the institution.

Compiled by Sunny Chan

1 What is the biggest specific goal you hope to achieve as VPA, and how do you plan on accomplishing it?

John Braga: Currently, the University of Alberta Students' Union and Bookstore are nation leaders with regards to academic materials, making them high quality and cost-effective for students, so my biggest goal is to continue that national leadership this summer at the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials and ensure that we take a stance that will make academic materials even more affordable for the undergraduate population.

Bryant Lukes: I want to make the campus greener, and I want to do this in two ways. First is by investigating what Vice-President Dollansky has been doing this past year on Students' Council. Regarding the energy usage in the University itself, I want to make an effort to bring solar power to the University, and I also want to look at programs like the new agriculture faculty name change in terms of getting people into environmental programs at the University and promoting that faculty.

2 Rising textbook costs are a rising student concern—what are your plans for student advocacy in that area?

Braga: Firstly, to continue the co-operation we have with the U of A Bookstore, to pressure the publishers to make textbooks more affordable

for students. There's a lot of specific information that will come up in transition into the position: issues such as bundling costs and seeking to have the University of Alberta administration provide more support to professors who want to create coursepacks—coursepacks are a cheaper alternative to textbooks—and ensuring that they have the tools at their disposal to make better use of these.

Lukes: I understand there's been a couple of government initiatives and proposals from opposition parties to subsidize textbooks. I would certainly lobby the government to reduce textbook costs and subsidize students for those expenses. In terms of the University doing something, I don't know if there's much that we can do in terms of putting tuition money towards that, but I definitely think lobbying the government is worthwhile.

3 How will you stay connected to constantly changing student interests?

Braga: My first platform goal is to strengthen faculty associations. They have constant contact with their student body and with their faculties themselves. I want to ensure that there's open lines of communications, there's an open understanding of the goals of the faculty associations and of the VP (Academic) of the Students' Union, and being able to reach the students by proxy via faculty associations.

Lukes: I plan on opening up all the electronic resources that are available, things like Facebook and Myspace and those types of things. I want to see students at Students' Council meetings. I want to encourage students to come and make presentations at Students' Council meetings. It's too much of an inside clique in the University, and I want to open it up to the students more.



LAURENSTIEGLITZ

BOOK IT TO THE BALLOTS Bryant Lukes (left) and John Braga both want to be Vice-President (Academic).

4 What are your thoughts on the University's 2007–2011 academic plan, "Dare to Deliver"?

Braga: Firstly, the goals of University of Alberta are laudable and something worthy of working towards. However, the lack of a metric to determine how or when we've achieved these various goals and how far along we are in the progress is a problem. During the year, I will be working to pressure the administration to give us a concrete metric, whereby we can determine how far along in the academic plan we are and we can identify ways in which the administration and the Students' Union need to co-operate to achieve these laudable goals.

Lukes: I appreciate the President's positive attitude and optimism about the University. As with the previous year's plan, I think there may be too

much emphasis on bringing in more funds and bringing in new things, and maybe not enough about what we're doing with what we currently have at this university.

5 How will you survive the zombie apocalypse?

Braga: Since my first year living in Lister, there has been a battle plan to use couches as barricades and to basically shut down the building and ensure the survival of Lister in the case of zombie apocalypse. So I'd enact Plan A, which has already been under development for years.

Lukes: Primarily through making sure that my self-defence skills are up to snuff and making sure that I have my passport ready if I need to leave the country or go to Switzerland or something.

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MIKE OTTO

PLACING AN EX ON THE BALLOT Matt Trodden (left) and Beverly Eastham speak at the Lister forum on Monday night.

VPX shoots for governmental advocacy

THE ROLE OF THE VP (EXTERNAL) IS to communicate and establish relationships with external governing bodies in order to further student issues.

Compiled by Caroline Lee

1 What main issue will you set as your first priority if you were to be elected into this position, and why?

Beverly Eastham: My first priority is getting students involved in what's going on in the province and starting to have a provincial dialogue on postsecondary issues. If the Province knows that students have concerns and students are being involved in actively talking about their concerns, we'll get further on our issues.

Matt Trodden: The first thing that obviously has to be addressed is tuition. It seems to be the biggest concern on everyone's mind all the time. However, it needs to be addressed in a kind of different way. Obviously, the Board of Governors always knows that we don't want tuition to go up, so us saying over and over again to them, "tuition can't go up" isn't quite working. What we need to see happen is for us to show them a benefit or basically showing them advocating to the provincial government that we need more funding. Because they are trying to run a successful university, obviously, and with the decrease in funding coming from the provincial government and offset in maintenance costs that have come, we need to basically find the money from somewhere. The money always seems to come from undergrads. So we need to team up with them and move together in this direction of trying to find a successful way to lobby the provincial government into giving us more money.

2 How will you ensure that the student voice is heard at the provincial and national level?

Beverly Eastham: Presenting students as being professional and well-informed, not just a group of people that are trying to change what the government is doing but working with the government, is very important. So presenting ourselves as being professional, just talking to the government, getting out into the rural community, and engaging the province is very important.

Matt Trodden: It's imperative that we deal with the provincial government in a respectful way. We can't just come at them, guns blazing. But we need to team up, like I said, with the University. We've already established a pretty good relationship between the SU and the U of A administration, especially with President Samarasekera. We need to continue to foster that relationship and go towards the provincial government with a combined force that isn't just 25 000 undergrads, but staff and the alumni. We've got

a huge alumni base, and we need to make sure that they're on board with us too. Because when you start getting into the hundreds of thousands of people advocating for one thing, all of a sudden it becomes a lot easier to get the provincial government's attention. It's the same with the federal government. I don't think we should regress back to joining the federal university lobbying groups because of the high costs involved that they put on us by being members. But I think that we can definitely move in a positive direction in teaming up with other institutions throughout Alberta. We're not the only ones that want to lower tuition in Canada. So we just need to find a better alternative than joining these existing groups.

3 Student involvement is important in addressing the concerns surrounding the University. How do you plan on effectively communicating with students?

Beverly Eastham: I'm really hoping to try and use CPAC, the Campus Planning and Action Committee, this year to involve students, to get out and talk to students, to actually consult with students and ask them what their issues are, and to let them know that they have a voice in what we're telling the federal and provincial government and the municipal government as well.

Matt Trodden: Largely, we deal with a pretty apathetic population. One big thing I want to focus on for getting people involved in is the upcoming provincial election. This is our chance to send the provincial government a message that we want a change and we are a cohesive and bonded unit that is willing to stand up together and say something. The only way this can be done is obviously [...] through communication.

But how do we do that? I think the "Roll it Back, Ralph" campaign is a great example of how to get people involved. It was constantly up there in banners and posters, emails were sent out, and different events were organized. This trend needs to continue. There's no reason we shouldn't have a "Rock the Vote," "Vote or Die," or some sort of campaign to get people really fired up about the provincial election and get them informed on what benefits are out there for them with the different parties.

I just don't see that happening right now. I mean, there's one poster downstairs that I've seen that outlines that there's going to be a forum and that we don't want tuition to go up. But what are the parties offering? Who's giving what? I know some are a little more willing to cooperate with us on these things, and they've already got intense plans involved. We also need to ensure that the student body is involved. [...] Obviously, they are willing to give it to us, but where is this money coming from? Is it coming from our parents?

Basically, just where is it coming from?

4 What do you think will be the biggest challenges you will face?

Beverly Eastham: There are a lot of challenges in this job—mostly being taken seriously. Presenting yourself with a professional outlook and trying to work with a number of different groups—student groups and the different government levels—is very important.

Matt Trodden: The greatest challenge will definitely be trying to deal with textbook costs. Tuition, obviously, is ongoing, and I will continue to fight if elected. But textbooks are something that's slightly removed from the University. University bookstores are starting to get on board with student groups, and we need to continue this fight and keep pushing towards lowering textbook costs. I'd like to see a movement started where all institutions of higher learning are able to join together and approach some of these large corporations that are manufacturing our textbooks. Some have monopolies, such as the Thomson Corporation, who happen to be the wealthiest family in Canada.

We need to approach these corporations and say 'Listen, we have all these people and institutions backing us in the fight to lower textbook costs. Obviously, your profit margins are too high, and it's starting to scare or push people away from wanting to buy textbooks.' I know I have a friend of mine who's almost paranoid to buy textbooks just because of their costs. He believes he does worse for it. He always spends the hour or two hours in the library that you can take out a textbook for, reads it as fast as he can, has to give it back, and can't do it at night when he's free. He has to do it while at school before he has to go home. That shouldn't be that way. It's going to be the most difficult because you have to deal with a corporation that isn't exactly accountable.

5 How will you survive the zombie apocalypse?

Beverly Eastham: Well, I think we could hide out in Lister because that thing will survive anything. And maybe we should bring back Soundwave to help us battle the zombies.

Matt Trodden: It seems that the zombies obviously respond to our brain. They want to eat them. So, we want to kill them. The best way to do it is chainsaw. I think you can see in *Army of Darkness 1* and *2* that the best way to deal with a zombie is chainsaw. Whether or not it's a chainsaw that you may have lost an arm to a zombie and you need to now use a chainsaw arm. Whatever you need to get done, just everyone needs a chainsaw. That's the secret.

Event to celebrate arts in the field of engineering

RIGHT SIDE ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
“I’ve really struggled throughout my degree with the culture of engineering and hearing stories about industry and Alberta, in particular, being very oil- and gas-focused. I’ve often been left feeling a little disheartened by some of the stories I’ve heard. But I think it can be different, and it’s just a matter of celebrating different aspects of the field,” she stressed.

“I think it can be different and it’s just a matter of celebrating different aspects of the field.”
KELSEY CHEGUS
ENGINEERING STUDENT

Chegus also pointed out that The “Right” Side of Engineering is about looking at how right-brained thinking is as integral to its practice as a mastery of mathematics or physics. Although

the Faculty of Engineering does offer ethics classes, many students, she said, find they lack strong engagement with moral issues essential to real-life application of skills learnt in the classroom.
She often felt disheartened by stories about engineers not caring about the social side of issues and felt they were often morally sidetracked by the question of whether or not a construction project was possible and not ethical. She explained that engineering students rarely get the chance to learn about these important decisions in the classroom and should be learning to consider their projects’ effects on people, communities, and the environment.
“When organizing the event, the idea was that if we start celebrating different aspects of engineering, we create a new story for what engineering is about,” she said. “We’re hoping [this opens] the mindsets of people that are graduating so they know that the other things they do in their lives are equally important.”

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

WHAT’S ALL THE HUBBUB?

On 12 February at 11:10am, Campus Security responded to a call of a suspicious male passed out at a table in HUB Mall. Upon arrival, CSS peace officers discovered a male, who was well known to police across Canada, sleeping at a table. The male had several outstanding warrants for which he was arrested and transported to an EPS lock-up facility.

TALK TO THE HAND

On 13 February at 3:15pm, Campus 5-0 responded to a report of a suspicious male who was having a conversation with his fingers in the Heritage Medical Research Building. Upon arrival, officers identified a male who was well known to CSS. The male had been previously trespassed from the University. He was subsequently charged with trespassing and escorted off University property. The mans hands were questioned and found to have no connection to the individual

GRAND THEFT ALCO

At 1:00 am on 14 February, Campus Security officers observed two males and a female running away from SUB carrying pitchers of beer. The trio were stopped for the offence and identified as students. The three admitted to taking the beer from RATT and Code of Student Behaviour (COSB) charges are pending.

A STOLEN GAMECUBE AND BEER? SOUNDS LIKE MY PROM NIGHT

At 1:45am on 14 February, CSS officers observed two males near the Butterdome burying something in the snow while on routine patrol. Further investigation revealed that the males, identified as the students who had been involved in the theft of beer earlier in the evening, had buried a GameCube in the snow. The males stated that they had borrowed the GameCube from a friend in Lister Hall. However, the friend later reported that the GameCube was not hers. A search of Lister found several wires and a controller for the game system hooked up to a TV in a common area. However, the game system was missing. Anyone with knowledge of who’s bringing the blue sparks is asked to contact CSS.

PROJECTING ANGER


On 14 February at 3:10pm, CSS peace officers responded to a silent alarm in University Terrace. Upon arrival, a ceiling-mounted data projector was found to have been tampered with. During a check of the area, officers discovered a man, well know to both CSS and the EPS, nearby. The male was subsequently charged and turned over to the EPS.

APB ON CROCODILE DUNDEE

On 14 February at 10:45pm, CSS received a report of a male carrying a knife running southbound from the HUB LRT entrance. The male was wearing a cowboy hat. Transit Security and the EPS were both contacted, but the male had managed to make his way off campus. The EPS later arrested the male at the Southgate transit terminal.

TORY TORN APART AND BURGLARIZED


At 3:00pm on 17 February, CSS peace officers responded to several office break-ins in the Tory building. Cash, medication, and other personal property was taken. The break-ins are currently being investigated by the EPS Forensics Unit. If you have any information about these break-ins, please contact Campus Security Services.



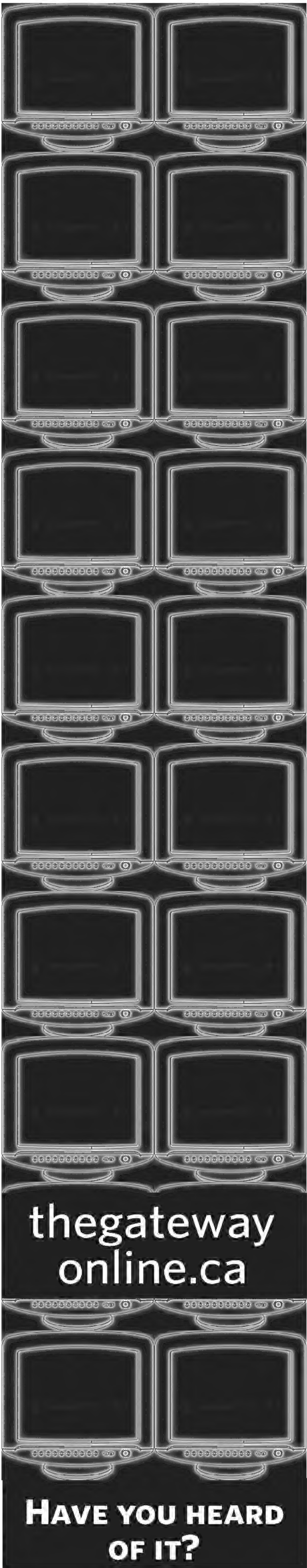
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OF IT?**